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THE

REPORTS

*H. d. 4.*

*Collegii* OF *Regii*

THE SOCIETY

*Medicor.* FOR *Edinburg.*

BETTERING THE CONDITION

*H. d.*

AND

INCREASING THE COMFORTS

OF THE POOR.

VOL. I.

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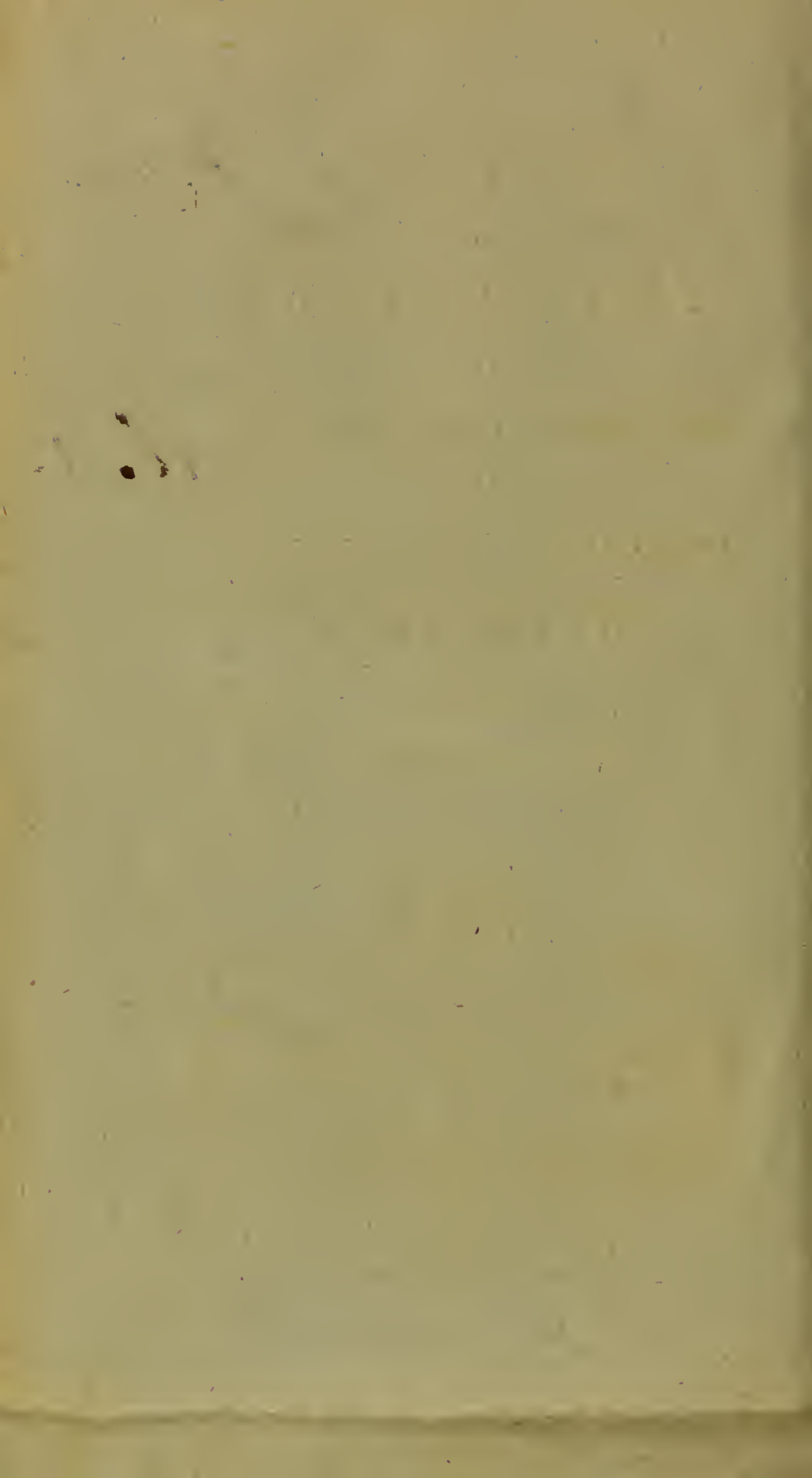
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1811.

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## PRELIMINARY ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

THE interests of the poorer classes of society are so interwoven with those of every part of the community, that there is no subject more deserving of general attention, nor any knowledge more entitled to the exalted name of SCIENCE, than that in which their well-being is concerned:—than that, the tendency of which is to carry domestic comfort into the recesses of every cottage, and to add to the virtue of a nation, by increasing its happiness. The noblest and most elevated employments of the human mind lose their importance, when placed in competition with researches, on which the welfare and good conduct of millions may depend; and the result whereof may add as much, to national prosperity, as to individual benefit.

Let us therefore make the enquiry into all that concerns the poor, and the pro-

motion of their happiness, a SCIENCE; let us investigate *practically*, and upon *system*, the nature and consequences, and let us unite in the extension and improvement, of those things which experience hath ascertained to be beneficial to the poor. Let the labours of the industrious, the talents of the wise, the influence of the powerful, and the leisure of the many, be directed to this important subject; and let us be assured, that united and patient industry will not fail of success.

The principle of all modern improvements, in the sciences, in the arts, in every thing in which the industry of man has extended the narrow limits of human knowledge,—that principle, without which *all is conjecture, and hazard*, has never yet been properly applied to the concerns of the poor. A search after what has *really* augmented *their happiness* and *virtue*, after what *use* and *experience* have given their sanction to, into facts and existing circumstances—this has never yet been fairly and fully made. For a period of more than two centuries, the attention of the nation has been engaged by a succession of



projects, for the management of the poor ; almost all of them originating in benevolence : and every one of them received in a manner, and with an interest, that distinctly marked the public anxiety upon the subject. The good effects however, as to the poor, have been limited and uncertain : the project having originated not in them, but in the projector ;—not in fact, but in speculation.

We all feel how far we can be led by encouragement, by kindness,\* by management, and while we retain the idea of *choice* and *free will*. We all know, in our own instances, how little is to be effected by compulsion ;—that, where force begins, inclination ceases.—Let us then give effect to that master-spring of action, on which equally depends the prosperity of individuals and of empires——THE DESIRE IMPLANTED IN THE HUMAN BREAST OF BETTERING ITS CONDITION.† Be it our endeavour that this principle have its full influence on the lower classes of society. OUR DUTY TO THE POOR IS A *personal* SERVICE, INJOINED

\* See COUNT RUMFORD'S Essays, *passim*.

† SMITH'S Wealth of Nations.

BY THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY ; AND CANNOT BE COMMUTED : it is a work in which no man has a right to be idle—" Where is it, that in such a world as this, health and leisure and affluence may not find some ignorance to instruct, some wrong to redress, some want to supply, some misery to alleviate ? Shall ambition and avarice never sleep ? shall they never want objects on which to fasten ; shall they be so observant to discover, so acute to discern, so eager, so patient to pursue, and shall the benevolence of Christians want employment ?" \*

I am aware, that there is not, in general, much credit given to the good dispositions of the poor ; and that we may be told that we are endeavouring to serve those, who *will not* be served. I know it is said, among other things, that they are *jealous* of every thing that can be done for them, and *averse* to profit by information.—In truth, it is not entirely without cause, that the poor are jealous of the *variety* of measures, however well intended, that are brought forward with regard to them : they understand as

\* Mr. WILBERFORCE'S Practical View.

little of the *motives*, as the theorist does of the *consequences* of his experiment.—And as to unwillingness to profit by information, it may indeed be sometimes imputable to the lower, as well as to the higher classes of life. But the poor have never yet had a fair trial. Let *useful* and *practical* information be offered to them; give them *time* to understand, and the *choice* of adopting it; and I am mistaken, if they do not shew as much good sense on the subject, as any other class of men in the kingdom.

There is a common theme of declamation, particularly among the *idle*, and that is, the *idleness of the poor*.—How far this is exclusively imputable to the labourer, let those judge who have seen him working by the piece, and not by the day.—I do not mean, by the distinction, to admit any culpable degree of idleness, in those who work by the day; but in task-work, where the earnings are proportioned to the degree of labour and energy employed, I have often wished it were possible to restrain the cottager from injuring himself by excess of exertion;—the fatal effect of which I have too frequently seen.

Another imputation on the poor is *drunkenness*; an odious and pernicious vice, not confined, I fear, to any particular class of men. Upon this subject, it must be a very great satisfaction to every friend of his country, that the fatal and poisonous custom of *dram drinking* is not now so noxiously prevalent among the lower ranks of life, as it has been; the present consumption of British spirits, notwithstanding all our increase of population and manufactures, being much less than it was half a century ago. Of ale and beer, a wholesome and nourishing beverage for the labouring poor, there may be an increased consumption, though, I believe, no excess upon the whole; however it might be wished that the quantity, which they have, were more wisely husbanded, and applied by them to the purposes of their own domestic comfort and enjoyment.

Before we give judgment, however, upon the crimes of the poor, it will be prudence, at least, to examine how far we have, in any degree, been accessaries.—If *habitual drunkenness* be frequently the consequence of weakness of body, or of despondency of

mind ; and, among the poor at least, most prevalent, where the constitution has been impaired by comfortless habits of life, or by want of nutritive and regular food : and if, of every species of *idleness*, that of *hopeless indigence* be the most inveterate ; was it not our duty—were we not bound by every tie, moral and religious,—to have assisted and encouraged them in the use of a better system of diet,\*—to have increased the internal comfort of their habitations,—and to have converted listless indolence, which is *without energy* when it is *without hope*, into cheerful, active, and prosperous industry ?

Upon our proposed subjects of inquiry, much will not be expected, in the very infancy of an establishment. Some information, however, has been already obtained.—*Friendly societies* are the objects of the first paper ; which presents an interesting detail respecting one at Castle Eden, upon a scale capable of general adoption ; it contains an important illustration, of the true principle of action with regard to the poor : and

\* See Sir FREDERICK EDEN'S valuable work on the poor. I. 491—590.



proves how much they may, in a short time, learn to do for themselves, and to what a degree of kindness and affection, they may be habituated to extend their interest in the welfare of each other. The manner in which the poor and industrious member of that society has been assisted in the purchase of his cow, and its beneficial consequences both to the individual, and to the property with which he is connected, by increasing and improving the stock upon it, is deserving of attention and imitation.

The second is an account of a *village shop* :—a subject, the importance of which will be felt by all, who interest themselves in the domestic concerns of the poor; when it is known, that a saving of above 20 per cent. may be thereby made to the labourer, in the purchase of the necessities of life;—that it is the most effectual means to prevent his running in debt;—that the expense and trouble, to the charitable founder of the shop, is inconsiderable; and that it is liable to no objection, but what may be easily obviated.

The next communication is upon *work-houses* of united hundreds ; an inquiry of no small importance at the present moment. —The mode of their management, and the objections\* and inconveniences that attend them, even under the best regulations and management, are stated with clearness and perspicuity. —The rules of a *spinning school*, established with success at Oakham, upon the principles of COUNT RUMFORD, are the next in order ;—a school, where the poor attend with pleasure and regularity, and thankfully receive the benefit of a cheaper and more nourishing diet, supplied to them at a very small price ;—and for these reasons simply,—because they are allowed to continue *free agents*, and to retain an *option* on the subject ; and because they have the *whole* of their earnings inviolably at their own disposal. —May the example be speedily followed in other parts of England !

\* See Sir WILLIAM YOUNG's Observations, published in 1788 ; and his Considerations on the subject of Poorhouses and Workhouses, 1796.

The fifth is an account of the *jail* and *house of correction* at Dorchester.—When we consider the important consequences of what has been effected there, in annually saving to the public and to themselves, many persons otherwise abandoned to destruction, we cannot help lamenting that so very few similar instances are to be found in the whole kingdom.—The principle of this reform will apply, with still greater force, to every measure that regards the *local* and *domestic* concerns of mankind! in all of which it will invariably be found, that in proportion as *coercion* is given up, and the *interest* of the party is made the spring of action, temptations to vice will be excluded, and habits of labour and honesty will be gradually acquired.

In the next paper, upon *fuel*, the reader will find a very gratifying proof, that the poor *may* be easily reconciled to inclosures, or to any other measure of public benefit, where their own *feelings* and *interests* are only properly consulted.—The last communication is on *parochial relief*, and the mode and principle upon which it has



been administered by the magistrates of the hundred of Stoke.

I cannot close, without suggesting to the reader some of the very beneficial effects, which *may* be produced by *union* and *perseverance*, in a proper system of conduct with regard to the poor; our present parochial expenses being at the same time diminished, and a very gentle and *gradual* variation being made in our code of poor laws.—Let it be imagined that the landowner *may* be awakened to his real\* interest, and the industrious labourer supplied with a sufficient portion of *garden ground*, and in many instances with the means of *keeping his cow*:—that neat and comfortable cottages may supply the place of those wretched hovels, which disgrace many parts of the kingdom:—that the *fire-places* of cottagers be improved, and their supply of *fuel* increased; so as to give more comfort to their habitations, and to remove an inducement to petty thefts, too frequently the source of criminal habits:—

\* See the Earl of WINCHILSEA's letter on the advantage of cottagers renting land, 1796.

that *parish-mills, village shops*, and all other means of affording the poor a plentiful and cheap supply of the necessaries of life, be gradually introduced, wherever they may be useful and proper ;—that the cases of *beggars* be inquired into ; that the idle and criminal be compelled to work, and the friendless and distressed either relieved at home, or received into a clean and comfortable asylum:—that the condition of poor children, consigned in lots as *apprentices* to manufactories, and there left *unprotected* and *forgotten*, be placed under a system of inspection.—Let us suppose *friendly societies*, the subjects of individual and voluntary aid and encouragement, in every part of the kingdom :—*parish work-houses* amended and regulated, and tenanted by the only persons who should be resident in them ; those whose forlorn and *insulated* condition precludes their doing better out of them :—and lastly, that *parish relief* be systematically directed to the encouragement of industry and economy, and to making the poor man happy in his own cottage, instead of its being the instrument

of driving him and his family into a work-house.—Suppose even a *part* of this effected, and then let the reader himself judge, what must be its operation on the poor—on the rich—on every class and rank of society? What must be the addition to individual morality and happiness? What to national security and prosperity?

THOS. BERNARD.

27th April, 1797.



# REPORTS, &c.

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## No. I.

*Extract from an account of a friendly society at Castle-Eden, in the county of Durham. By ROWLAND BURDON, Esq.*

**I**N 1793, my steward, Mr. Michael Scarth, concerted with me the plan of a friendly society at Castle-Eden, which commenced on August 10th of that year.

The trustees of the society are, the lord of the manor, the clergy and justices of that and the two adjacent parishes, within which its members for the most part reside. All donors or subscribers of one guinea and upwards, annually, are honorary members. Twelve principal inhabitants, with the churchwardens of the three parishes, and all honorary members, are directors for the time being.\*

\* The rules of the friendly society at Castle-Eden have been printed at the request of our society, together with copies of their minutes, and notes, including the forms of the different papers belonging to their society.—As these may be of very great use to persons desirous of forming friendly societies on prudent and equitable terms, they have been compressed into a shilling pamphlet; which is to be had at Clarke's, Bond-street, and is recommended to those who interest themselves in the welfare of friendly societies. The profits, if any, that may arise from the publication, are to go to the funds of the friendly society at Castle-Eden.

For the immediate management of the business of the society, an annual committee, with a steward, clerk, and treasurer, are elected, and two visitors are appointed from each parish.

The number of members has never reached two hundred: consisting for the most part of farmers, artificers, labourers, and their families.

The ACCOUNTS from August 10th, 1793, to December 31st, 1796.

Dr.

Cr.

| To donations and subscriptions from honorary members since the commencement | £. s. d.         | By lent on interest<br>By ditto to members for purchase of cows<br>Balance in treasurer's hands | £. s. d.         |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| Interest from sundry members  | 43 -- --         |   | 440 -- --        |
| Monthly contributions, deducting sums paid during sickness                  | 29 19 6          |   | 22 -- --         |
| Surplus from funerals, entranes, &c.  | 385 7 10         |   | -- 16 --         |
|   | 3 8 8            |   |                  |
|   | <u>462 16 --</u> |   | <u>462 16 --</u> |

## CONTRIBUTIONS.

| Ages of Admission. | Per month during life, for one share, and so in proportion where no fee is paid on admission. | or 1s. per month during life for one share, paying upon admission the undermentioned sums, according to their respective ages. |
|--------------------|---|--|
|                    | <i>s. d.</i>  | <i>l. s. d.</i>  |
| under 22           | 1 —   |  |
| 22 and — 23        | 1 — $\frac{1}{2}$   | — 5 —  |
| 23 — 24            | 1 1   | — 10 —   |
| 24 — 25            | 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$   | — 15 —   |
| 25 — 26            | 1 2   | 1 — —  |
| 26 — 27            | 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 1 5 —  |
| 27 — 28            | 1 3   | 1 10 —   |
| 28 — 29            | 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 1 15 —   |
| 29 — 30            | 1 4   | 2 — —  |
| 30 — 31            | 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 2 6 —  |
| 31 — 32            | 1 5   | 2 12 —   |
| 32 — 33            | 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 2 18 —   |
| 33 — 34            | 1 6   | 3 4 —  |
| 34 — 35            | 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 3 10 —   |
| 35 — 36            | 1 7   | 3 18 —   |
| 36 — 37            | 1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 4 6 —  |
| 37 — 38            | 1 8   | 4 14 —   |
| 38 — 39            | 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 5 2 —  |
| 39 — 40            | 1 9   | 5 10 —   |
| 40 — 41            | 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 6 — —  |
| 41 — 42            | 1 10  | 6 10 —   |
| 42 — 43            | 1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 7 — —  |
| 43 — 44            | 1 11  | 7 10 —   |
| 44 — 45            | 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 8 — —  |
| 45 — 46            | 2 —   | 8 10 —   |



Sixpence is paid for each share on the decease of every member, for whose funeral the society has any disbursement to make ; and each member above twenty-one years of age (excepting women) pays, at each yearly meeting, one shilling for dinner and liquor : but no member is obliged to be at any expense at monthly or other meetings. A deposit of two shillings and sixpence is made on proposing any person to become a member, which, if the person be not admitted, is returned. Any member, under forty-five years of age, may increase his or her original share, on contributing according to his or her age, at the time of making such increase.

### BENEFITS.

*To men\* in sickness, lameness, or infirmity.*

For one share, and so in proportion for half a share :

Six shillings a week when confined in bed, or unable to go out of the house, or to perform any kind of work ; and

Threë shillings a week, when able to walk out, or to labour in a small degree : but both these allowances cease when the member is able to follow his usual occupation, or even to earn three shillings a week regularly.

A surgeon and apothecary are appointed to attend the sick members.

*In old age.*—For each share, and so in proportion

\* Women are not entitled to benefit in sickness.

for half a share, each member is intitled to the following annuity:

| from 50 to 60 years of age,<br>a yearly annuity (by quarterly payments) of - | to men    |           |           | to women  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| from 50 to 60 years of age   | —         | —         | —         | 4         | —         | —         |
| from 60 to 70 years of age   | 6         | —         | —         | 6         | —         | —         |
| from 70 to 80  | 8         | —         | —         | 8         | —         | —         |
| from 80 to 90  | 10        | —         | —         | 10        | —         | —         |
| from 90 until death  | 12        | —         | —         | 12        | —         | —         |

Such annuities to commence from the first of January next, after the member's attaining the age of fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, and ninety years respectively ; but no annuity is payable to any member, until he shall have contributed for fifteen years, nor for any share on which he may have received relief in sickness, &c. ; but a man may take relief in sickness for one share, and receive annuities for other shares, which occasions many of the members to subscribe for more than one share.

*At death.*—Five pounds for each share, and fifty shillings for each half-share, is paid to the representative of each member, who has contributed to the fund for twelve months, whether man or woman : and if the member die before contributing twelve months, the full amount of what he or she may have paid, is returned. This is repaid to the fund, by contributions from the surviving members.

*To the widow* of each member, who shall die after contributing fifteen years, an annuity of four pounds, by quarterly payments, from the member's death, during widowhood, for each share ; and so in proportion for half a share, for which no other

benefit had been received during the member's lifetime ; and, if he leave no widow, the same annuity to be applied for the benefit of orphan children (if any) under twelve years of age, until the youngest of them attain that age.

*To young children.*—Any member, who wishes to make provision for a child or children, is allowed to enter any of them on the following terms :

If under four years of age when entered, the member pays four-pence monthly for each child, till it attains twelve years of age, if the member should live so long.

If four years, and under seven years, when entered, he pays three-pence monthly for each child.

If seven years, and under ten years, when entered, he pays two-pence monthly, for each child.

If a member die and leave any child or children so contributed for, under twelve years of age, one shilling per week is applied out of the fund of the society, towards the maintenance of each such child, till it attains the age of twelve years ; and if the member choose to contribute double the above-mentioned sums for each child, the child or children will be entitled to double benefit : but no child is entitled to any benefit (excepting the annuity to be paid in case of the member's dying after contributing for fifteen years, *without leaving a widow*) unless entered and paid for twelve calendar months before the death of its father.

*By purchasing cows.*—A sum of money, not exceeding ten, nor less than five pounds, is lent to any one member for this purpose ; on his giving a

promissory note, signed by himself and two householders (to be approved of by the steward, directors, and committee) for the repayment with interest by instalments, after the rate of two shillings a week, or such other rate as may be agreed on.

*By certificates.*—Each member may obtain a certificate, as soon as admitted, which, by the act of parliament, will prevent him or her from being removed until actually chargeable; and, in cases of unmarried women having children in a parish to which they do not belong, the Society's certificates will be a better security than many bonds of indemnity. Questions also of settlement may be decided without the removal of the certificated person, under the said Act, 33d of Geo. III. ch. 54. sec. 21, 22.

The calculations for the contributions, &c. were formed upon Dr Price's Tables, making them, however, more in favour of old than young members; by which the funds are not injured, but rather to a reverse, because young men are more inclined to subscribe than old; and if the latter were to contribute according to the proportions of Dr. Price's Tables, very few would become members. The composition table is lower also than Dr. Price's, notwithstanding which very few are found to avail themselves of the advantage.

The allowance in sickness is one-third higher than Dr Price's; but members, who receive in sickness, are debarred from annuities for the same shares; and consequently this allowance in sickness may well be afforded.

In drawing the Castle-Eden tables, the object was to make the monthly contributions fully equal to the disbursements, and to induce persons of *all* ages under 46 to become members, without calculating exactly at what each age ought to pay.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The preceding statement shews the accounts of the society, the gradation of its contributions, and the benefits derived by its members, in which the principal rules of the society may be traced. Little has been the amount of donations or subscriptions, and yet, during the severe trial of the late scarcity of bread corn, few or none of the members omitted to keep up their subscriptions; testifying thereby an anxious and steady wish to provide permanently for themselves and families.

On the beneficial effects of an establishment so much in its infancy, I would be careful not to expatiate too much; but I think I can already ascertain some unquestionable advantages. The families of the poor have a more ready supply of medical assistance at their own houses; and, since they have been associated for each other's support, I have learnt with pleasure, that, in more instances than one, they have collected little sums among themselves to present to their sick and necessitous neighbours, over and above the allowance from the funds of the society; which, as far as I know, is an effect of philanthropy derived from the institution. All the members are uniformly anxious to



avoid taking relief for sickness, during fifteen years, on their respective shares ; a circumstance which, whilst it protects the fund, adds force to the habitual lesson of thrift ; and, as there is a regular ledger kept in which each member's separate account is entered, no mistake can arise on that subject. The encouragement, given to buying and keeping cows, promises considerable improvement to my estate ; as I find it very well worth my while, to accommodate the members with pasture for a cow and two tons of hay each, for six pounds per annum. This, to a poor family, is a great advantage, and will, according to my apprehension, tend much to diminish the weight of poor upon the parishes to which they belong. The locomotive faculty also derived from the certificates of friendly societies is a very obvious advantage : and I was sorry to be obliged to give way to the authority of the legislature, in the adoption of a general principle of this nature with respect to the poor, by the passing of an act for preventing vexatious removals ; which has taken away, or at least diminished much, this inducement for entering into friendly societies.

The great desideratum, with respect to the maintenance of the poor, has always appeared to me to be the encouragement of habits of economy, and of a system of periodical subscription towards their own subsistence. Where men derive support in sickness and old age\* from their individual

\* In a late instance, in the neighbourhood of Ealing, a

efforts, in conjunction with those of their neighbours, they pass through the various periods of trial without that degradation, which attends parochial relief; being necessarily amenable to each other for a certain degree of forethought, and good conduct, they learn, insensibly, to be regular in their attention to the earnings of their business, and by acquiring a permanent connection with their neighbours, they become incapable of those acts of

majority, composed of the *young* men of a friendly society, agreed to dissolve the society, and divide the stock; and thereby, at once, defrauded all the *old* members of that provision for age and infirmity, which had been the object of many years contribution. A new society was immediately formed of the young persons, and all the old members were left to the parish. This could not have happened, *if their rules had been regularly confirmed at the quarter sessions.*—The advantages of the rules being confirmed and registered (which by the act is to be without any fee or expence) are many and important; their *bonds* are not chargeable with any *stamp duty*;—they have a copy of their rules on record, which they may always recur to;—if their steward or other person embezzles their money, they may apply to the Court of Chancery, and obtain a decree and *relief without any expence* whatever;—and in case any person who has money or effects of the society in his hands, dies, or becomes a bankrupt, the debt of the society is to be discharged, *in preference to any other demand whatsoever.*—If all members of friendly societies had been aware, how much their security and benefit are increased by the confirmation of their rules, there would have been none but would have taken advantage of the act.—There is an unnecessary restriction in the statute law, as to the time for the confirmation of the rules of any friendly societies, established *before* the passing of that act. The benefits, however, of the act may be obtained (and there is an example in the publication mentioned in a preceding note) by the members *forming their society, and signing the rules anew*, with such amendments as occur; carrying their fund to the account of the new society, and giving to every member (instead of his divided share of the money) the same benefit in the fund of the new society, as he would have had in the old one. B. 14th April, 1798.

vagrancy, which are so wasteful of that main source of national wealth, the labour of the lower orders of the people.

Upon the whole, I cannot help thinking, that if the 33 Geo. III. Chap. 54, for the encouragement of friendly societies, be allowed sufficient time to operate, the poor will, by degrees, be induced to take care of themselves, assisted by the contributions, and encouraged by the countenance of their superiors. But I deprecate most earnestly the disposition to try experiments with our poor laws, cumbrous as their system may appear: for the poor do not easily comprehend new provisions, at the same time that they are averse to a change of circumstances, where their choice is not consulted; and I must acknowledge myself apprehensive as to the consequences of indulging our feelings too much in favour of those drones of society, who throw themselves, almost without an effort, upon the provision made for age and infirmity by the benevolent laws of their country.

*17th Feb. 1797.*



## No. II.

*Extract from an account of a village shop at Mongewell, in the county of Oxford. By the BISHOP of DURHAM.*

IN the year 1794, a village shop was opened at Mongewell, in Oxfordshire, for the benefit of the poor of that and three small adjoining parishes. A quantity of such articles of consumption as they use, as bacon, cheese, candles, soap, and salt, was procured from the wholesale dealer, to be sold at prime cost, and for ready money. They were restricted in their purchases to the supposed weekly demand of their families. The bacon and cheese, being purchased in Gloucestershire, had the charge of carriage. Most other situations would be nearer to an advantageous market. This plan was adopted under the apparent inconvenience, of not having a more proper person to sell the several commodities, than an infirm old man, unable to read or write. He received the articles that were wanted for the week; and it has appeared by his receipts at the close of it, that he has been correct. Since the commencement to the present time, there has been no reason to regret his want of scholarship: a proof how very easy it must be to procure in every village, a person equal to the task. As he has parish pay, and his house-rent is discharged, he is perfectly contented with his salary of one shilling per week, having also the common benefit of the shop.

As the prices of the shop articles have varied much during the past year (1796), it will be easy to judge of the advantage by taking them at the average, and the account will be more simple. The price of the sale throughout has been in the proportion stated, against the prices of the shops in the neighbourhood.

The rate of bacon purchased, has been eight-pence halfpenny per pound; the carriage rather more than a farthing. It was sold for nine-pence farthing: the advantage to the poor was two-pence three farthings per pound. Cheese cost four-pence three farthings; carriage more than a farthing; sold for sixpence: advantage to the poor, one penny per pound. Soap, candles, and salt, sold at prime cost: the advantage on these articles to the poor, was one pound eleven shillings.

There is a loss on the soap from cutting and keeping; to prevent which it is laid in by small quantities. Buying the salt by the bushel, almost covers the loss sustained from selling it by the pound.

The quantity of bacon sold during the year, was one hundred and sixty-eight score. Cheese twenty-eight hundred weight.

Account of payments in 1796.

|                        |   |   |     |    |            |
|------------------------|---|---|-----|----|------------|
| Candles, soap and salt | . |   | £31 | 1  | 6          |
| bacon                  | - | - | 120 | 0  | 0          |
| cheese                 | - | - | 62  | 9  | 5          |
| carriage               | - | - | 7   | 11 | 3          |
| salary                 | - | - | 2   | 12 | 0          |
|                        |   |   |     |    | <hr/>      |
|                        |   |   |     |    | £.223 14 2 |

The receipts corresponded, except by fifteen shillings; which arose from the poor of Mongewell having been allowed their soap and candles a penny per pound under prime cost. The saving to the poor was,

|                 |   |   |     |    |   |
|-----------------|---|---|-----|----|---|
| on bacon        | - | * | 34  | 16 | 8 |
| on cheese       | - | - | 11  | 13 | 4 |
| on candles, &c. | - | - | 1   | 11 | 0 |
| <hr/>           |   |   |     |    |   |
|                 |   |   | £48 | 1  | 0 |

Hence it appears, that the addition to the prime cost of bacon and cheese, is equal to the loss on the hocks and the cutting, every other part of the fitch being sold at the same price.

Since the commencement of the present year (1797) rice and coarse sugar have been introduced into the Mongewell shop,\* with much benefit; particularly the former.

\* Soup is now added to the articles sold at the village shop at Mongewell. The following is the receipt for ten gallons of soup:

|  |   |    |     |
|--|---|----|-----|
|  |   | s. | d.  |
| 3 lb. of fat pork, cut into small dice         | - | 1  | 6   |
| 1 gallon of pease, not split                   | - | 0  | 10  |
| 21 lb. of potatoes                             | - | 0  | 9   |
| 8 lb. of onions and leeks                      | - | 0  | 7   |
| 2 lb. of barley meal, added about half an hour |   |    |     |
| before the soup has done boiling               | . | 0  | 3   |
| pepper and salt                                | - | 0  | 3   |
| attendance, fuel, &c.                          | - | 0  | 10  |
| <hr/>  |   |    |     |
|  |   |    | 5 0 |

It is boiled gently for four or five hours, and costs sixpence a gallon. A pint of it affords a good meal for an ordinary appetite. The poor are very fond of it, and find it a palatable and cheap food. It is peculiarly grateful as a warm meal for day labourers and farming men, whose occupation obliges them to go out very early in the winter mornings,

## OBSERVATIONS.

From the above statement it appears that, taking all the articles together sold at the Mongewell shop, there was a saving to the poor of twenty-one per cent. in the supply of several of the most important articles of life.—Many in every parish, would lend their assistance to carry this plan into execution, if it were known that the rates would be lowered, at the same time that the poor were benefited.

By the adoption of this plan, the poor obtain good weight, and articles of the best quality, which, without any harsh imputation on the country shop-keeper, are not always to be had at his shop. Where there is no claim on the part of the purchaser, and no power of rejection, it is not probable that much regard should be paid to these considerations by the seller.

The comforts of the poor may thus be promoted, by bringing within their reach the articles of life, which they chiefly want, of the best quality, and at the cheapest rate. Their morals will also be improved, by the removal of an inducement to frequent the alehouse. As their time will not be mis-spent,

and to continue exposed to the inclemency of the season for several hours. As pease will not answer for boiling much longer this season, it is in contemplation to try Scotch barley, or ground rice, as a substitute for them. The soup is boiled in a small fixed copper, which renders the consumption of fuel very inconsiderable. D. 24th March 1798.

their means also will be increased. The parish rates will be lessened, even if the articles were sold without profit ; for the labourer will be enabled to purchase clothing for his family without other assistance. The farmer will gain, by keeping his servants regularly at their work, and by taking from the younger of them those examples of bad economy and dissolute conduct, which tend to lead them into the same evil habits.

Another benefit of this measure is the preventing the poor running in debt. The credit given to them adds much to the sufferings, which they undergo from their situation. The season, in which they have the best opportunity of exertion, and their industry is best recompensed, is in harvest. Their wages then must be applied to discharge the debts which they have contracted ; and they are obliged to their parishes for such clothing and fuel (not to mention house-rent) with which they are supplied during the winter. When the poor find that they can procure necessaries for their families, by this indulgence of the shop-keeper, they feel less scrupulous in spending part of their weekly wages at the alehouse.\* Hence the earnings of the

\* The increased number of little village alehouses is very prejudicial to the interests and welfare of the poor. In the neighbourhood of Hadham, Herts, the magistrates have encouraged, as much as they can, those publicans who set up on their own account, and brew their own beer. They thereby put their licences into more responsible hands. Where a public house is rented by a brewer, who supplies the beer, the great profit centers in him : and the publican, who is little more than his servant, is obliged to have recourse, in some instances, to means of subsistence discre-



following week are diminished, by having mis-spent their time, as well as their money. There are but few parishes, which do not confirm the truth of these observations; and which have not been called upon to redeem such goods of the poor, as the shopkeeper had at length seized, to cover himself from loss, when he had no hopes of security from their labour.

It is hence obvious to remark, that another striking benefit, to be derived from this plan, is giving to the poor the full enjoyment of their earnings; for whoever attends to the circumstances, under which the labouring country poor usually purchase the necessaries of life, must be sensible of the inconveniences to which they are subjected. If the shopkeeper be of substance, he frequently employs them in spinning: for which he pays by his own goods. They have not the option of seeking a better market with the price of their labour, as he will furnish work only on those terms. A connection is thus formed: and the poor easily obtain credit, especially if there should be more shops than one; for then they cannot leave their creditor, without exposing themselves to his vengeance for the debt.

ditable to himself, and prejudicial to his neighbours; I mean the admission of improper company, the keeping of bad hours, and the encouragement of tippling. Too frequently, after several years service in a laborious and unsuccessful trade, the publican is driven upon the parish. In the magistrates is vested a *discretion* as to licences; and they should gradually, and as opportunity offers, correct this evil of village alehouse keepers, who are without capital and without character, and are the pests of their neighbourhood, B. 22d March, 1798.



This has often happened in the neighbourhood of Mongewell, where, owing to these causes, many whose condition would have been bettered, and their comforts increased by the village shop, have not yet been able to profit by the benefits which it affords.

An objection has been urged against this plan, from the injury supposed to be done to the shopkeeper, who would thereby be deprived of his livelihood.

It may be presumed that the honest and deserving shopkeeper would be employed by preference, wherever this institution is established. And his gains are at present so trifling, so precarious, so unpleasantly acquired, and his feelings so frequently hurt by the measures he is obliged to recur to for the payment of his debts, that almost any certain income would be preferable. The country shopkeepers are usually employed by dealers in a more extensive trade, and credit given for their stock ; to dispose of which, they in their turn give credit to their customers. The failure of payment, in the poor, produces a similar failure on the part of the shopkeeper. The common rate of this description earn a very scanty subsistence. They frequently become chargeable to the parish ; when their creditor, perceiving his debt in danger, obliges them to settle their account.

But were it otherwise, and the objection well founded, can it be a question whether a plan, productive of such numerous and essential comforts to the poor, should be adopted ? Admit the principle

on which the objection rests, and it would obstruct improvements of every kind. It may reasonably, therefore, be hoped that a plan, where the risk is small, and the expectations of benefit to the labouring poor great and certain, will not be abandoned on such slight grounds.

There may be situations, in which the establishment of such a shop, -as I have described, would prove prejudicial in its consequences to some honest shopkeeper ; who by assistance in the mode of his supply of goods, to more advantage than they are now usually obtained on long credit, might be enabled to sell at a moderate price for ready money ; and thereby give the poor a part at least of the benefit which the poor at Mongewell enjoy.

This certainly would be desirable, where the whole of that benefit cannot be given them, consistently with local or particular circumstances.

*24th Feb. 1797.*

## No. III.

*Extract from an account of an incorporated house of industry, for two united hundreds, in the county of NORFOLK. By EDWARD PARRY, Esq.*

THE house of industry, for the hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, in the county of Norfolk, was established and incorporated by act of parliament in the year 1775. These hundreds contain 32 parishes: two of them large market-towns, but without manufactories. This house of industry certainly has the merit of being managed with great attention to the health, comfort, and (in some degree) to the morals of the poor. I speak of it from experience, having been an active director of it for 13 years, during my residence in the county of Norfolk. The following is the plan on which it is conducted.—There is a large building which contains on an average about 500 persons of all ages; and there is an hospital, about a quarter of a mile from the house, in which the sick are kept separate, according to their different disorders. They have a governor and matron, to which appointments, by preference, a man and wife are elected; and they have apartments in the house, where they must constantly reside. The former has 60*l.* a year, the latter 25*l.*; and they have coals, candles, and washing. There is a chaplain, who is generally a neighbouring clergyman, and has a salary of 30*l.* a year; his duty is to read

prayers once every day, and preach on Sundays. There is also a surgeon, who has 60*l.* a year; he is a resident of one of the neighbouring market-towns; but must attend every day, and has an apothecary's shop in the house, the medicines being found by the corporation.

There are also four surgeons for the out districts of the hundreds; who for attendance and medicines are allowed 45*l.* a year each, and attend all casualties, and report the state and condition of the patient and his family to the next committee. The directors' clerk, who is always an attorney, has 50*l.* a year; he attends all committees and meetings. There must, by the act of parliament, be 36 directors and 24 guardians. Every person, having a freehold estate of 300*l.* a year, and being resident in the district, is compelled to be a director, and to act as such: and, in case there are not enough of that description, the deficiency to be made good out of resident freeholders of 150*l.* a year (in which all rectors of livings of that value are included) until the whole number of directors is completed.

The guardians are chosen by ballot, annually, out of the farmers who rent 100*l.* a year and upwards, or persons having estates of that value. There is an annual meeting, and three quarterly meetings, of the directors and guardians, at one of the inns at the town of Dereham. At the annual meeting, which must be in the month of June, the directors and guardians are formed into twelve committees by ballot; three directors and two guardians being to attend, every month, at the house of industry, on

each Tuesday, from ten o'clock in the forenoon, till three, four, and sometimes five o'clock in the afternoon ; for the purpose of visiting, and inspecting the state of the house and the governor's accounts ; of receiving reports from the overseers of the parishes, signed by the surgeons of the district, as to the state and condition of the sick poor in the several parishes—and of granting them temporary relief—and also of directing that employment may be found for such as apply for it.

There is a farm of about 150 acres of land, belonging to the house, and kept in hand and managed by the governor ; this provides a dairy, and occasionally fats a few oxen and sheep : there is likewise a garden of six or seven acres, which is cultivated by the old men of the house, and produces an abundant supply of vegetables. The governor purchases the wheat, at market, from harvest till March or April, for the whole year : it is ground into meal by a mill belonging to the house ; and is made into bread, unsifted even from the bran, a kind of bread commonly eaten in all farmers', and most gentlemen's houses, in Norfolk.

All the meat is purchased in the animal, and killed in the house. There are several manufactories established in the house ; and all articles of their wearing apparel are made by the poor themselves ; the whole establishment being managed with economy, but with sufficient plenty.



## OBSERVATIONS.

From this account it may be supposed that the poor of those hundreds are upon the whole well taken care of, and made comfortable in their old age ; at the period when their labour is over.

And it is certainly true that those in the house are, generally speaking, well lodged, fed, and clothed : but, when it is considered that these five hundred people are, or are presumed to be, merely paupers, it will appear that there must remain a large class of industrious poor, who only want assistance occasionally, being generally employed. As to those with large families, the mode is to relieve them, by taking some of their children into the house : but I have known many parents, who, rather than consent to this, have half starved themselves and their children ; and sometimes carried it so far, that, by reducing themselves too low, they have been at length obliged to leave their cottage, and to be carried altogether to the house of industry ; the man's spirit broken, and he himself, (if he has stamina left to recover) becoming a burthen all his life ; as he seldom returns out of the house, capable of the same industry and exertion that he possessed before he went in.

It is further to be observed, that as the farmers pay a certain and limited rate to the corporation, which cannot be raised, they care very little about the poor ; and they frequently send whole families into the house, who might with a little assistance



support themselves out of it. Besides this, the separating of their children from them destroys all natural affection; and often occasions a wish that it would please God to take the child, instead of their being compelled to send it into the house of industry.

Of the 500 persons in the house, about half are children under 14 years. At that age, the children are ballotted on the farmers or tradesmen (keeping servants)\* for one year; who are compelled by the act of parliament to take them, or pay 10*l.*; but at the end of that year it happens that many return to the house of industry, unable to get another place: being found too delicate to perform that service, which the farmer gets from those which he hires out of cottages; and in consequence, many of them become fixed to the house for life.

\* The benefit of parishes placing out young persons in service, though only for a year, is, that it soon makes them fit for service in other parishes, and relieves their own parish from any further burthen. The *compulsory* binding of poor children under the statute law, till the age of twenty-one, is liable to this objection; that the master is not likely to use his apprentice so well, or the apprentice to serve his master so diligently, as if the contract was of shorter duration, and by mutual consent. Mr. Adam Smith is of opinion, that even in trades, or what he terms *skilled labour*, long apprenticeships are unnecessary and prejudicial to industry; and he gives powerful reasons for his opinion (vol. i. p. 184-192): but whatever may be the case as to trades, surely to bind a young lad, from fourteen years of age to twenty-one, to husbandry, or service, merely because he is out of work at the time, is a harsh and violent measure, and must have a tendency to check industry and exertion. In the house of industry, which is the subject of Mr. Parry's paper, children cannot be bound to husbandry for a longer term than three years. B. 7th April, 1798.

The other half consists of profligate men, who, through idleness and debauchery, have reduced their families to depend on the establishment for their support ;—dissolute wenches, who come to lie-in of bastard children, or to be cured of bad diseases ;—and (with these) the honest industrious poor, who, after many years of hard labour or long service, can no longer provide for themselves ; and are then of necessity driven from their peaceful cottages to a society, which must disgust and distress them the remainder of a life, the preceding part of which has been usefully employed in the service of the community.

The above are part of the many objections to institutions of this sort : and I confess that, after having attentively considered the subject some years, I think if workhouses of any kind shall be deemed useful (which I do not hold to be the case, except perhaps in cities and large towns) the best plan is to unite three, or four, or at most six parishes ; which shall have a small new-built house, planned on purpose, merely as an asylum for the aged and infirm ; to be superintended by the gentlemen and farmers who reside in the parishes ; and to be subject to the inspection and control of the magistrates acting for the division in which they are situated. That all the poor capable of work, though requiring occasional relief, either on account of bodily infirmity, or of large families, should receive it at their own houses ; and in general in clothes, or other necessities in preference to money. It is well known that the present wages do not

enable a labourer to support several small children during the period that they are incapable of labour ; I therefore think he should be allowed one shilling per week with every child above three, who shall be under the age of twelve years ; and that when these children are to enter upon a service, they should always be clothed by the parish. This latter article is almost universally followed at the house of industry, which I have before mentioned. It was adopted about eight years ago, on my recommendation : at first it met with many opponents ; but is, I believe, now considered by all the directors and guardians as a very great stimulus to the parents to get them services, and thereby to preclude them from afterwards being any burthen to the parish.

In general workhouses are very improperly so called ; being mostly filled with aged and infirm poor, who are considered as past work ; or with idle profligate wretches, whom the overseers suffer to live in filth and inactivity, rather than complain to a magistrate to have them compelled to labour, or than to offer them any employment, whereby a part of their maintenance might be obtained. This state of the workhouse being known throughout the parish, the honest and industrious labourer, who has brought up a large family with credit, and who from misfortune is poor, and from age past his labour, will rather submit to be half starved, than take up his abode amongst such wretchedness and profligacy ; although he knows the overseer will give him no relief out of the house. This, I am sorry to say, I have found to be the case, and in

one instance, upon hearing such a declaration from a poor man, a gentleman, who acted in the same division as myself, went with me unexpectedly to visit a parish workhouse; where we found men, women, and children, of different families crowded together, nineteen persons in two rooms of twelve feet square, and little more than six feet high.

Children should on no account be put into work-houses,\* if they have parents or relations who will take care of them; although it be requisite to give some allowance, and even to the full of what they would cost in the workhouse. Experience proves that children brought up in cottages, half naked, and indifferently fed, make hardier and better labourers, than those in parish workhouses. This I have seen demonstrated in houses of industry, where though the children are taken early from their parents, well clothed and well fed during their continuance in the house, and though they

\* The defect of several workhouses is, that many persons are kept there, who could do better for themselves, and with less expence to the parish, out of it. In one, that I have attended to, at Iver, Bucks, I found, on visiting it, 53 persons: of these 13 were above the age of 50; 3 helpless men and women under that age; and 11 children, too young to be placed out in the world; 15 of the remaining 26 were placed out by me in service, or otherwise, in the course of a month; and the other 11 were only kept till places could be found for them.—In this instance it is to be observed that 26 of these 53 persons would have been better out of the workhouse; but the house *had been farmed*; and on that account it had not been the man's interest to put them out; as that would have occasioned some immediate expence; and it might probably have been the cause of his allowance from the parish being reduced at the end of the year, or of his losing his contract by the competition of a lower offer.  
B. 10th November, 1797.



generally look healthy, yet they become so delicate, as to be unfit for husbandry labour, in a farmer's service ; and are frequently a heavy expence to their employer, from disorders they contract, when taken from warm workrooms, and exposed to field employments in winter.

It is however to be observed, that one general system cannot be adopted in all cases ; and that, in large manufacturing towns, houses of industry, well managed, may still be desirable : because the children, being brought up to sedentary employments, will be thereby accustomed to the habits of life, which they will in all probability be induced to follow.

One great advantage Norfolk has long derived from the custom of putting out all work by the piece, thrashing by the quarter, &c. (and which is making its way to other counties) is, that the father takes his sons to the field as soon as they can handle a hook, or raise a mattock ; and they soon earn their living, besides being at an early age inured to industry and weather.

I think every thing should be done to give the labouring man an idea, that he has an interest in the prosperity of the parish he lives in, and that his children will be taken care of, if death, or misfortune, prevent his ability to do it. The two great points are, first, to provide employment for all the poor, while able to work : secondly, to encourage, by every unexceptionable mode, friendly societies, or purse clubs ; that, when their labour is over, they may look forward to a comfortable support,

without the dreary prospect, through life, of a workhouse, to end their days neglected by their relations, perhaps at a distance from them; and where every morsel of victuals is often grudged them by an abusive overseer, or by a man who has farmed them at so much per head.

*2d March, 1797.*



## No. IV.

*Extract from an account of a spinning school at  
Oakham in the county of Rutland. By the Earl of  
WINCHILSEA.*

RULES FOR THE SPINNING SCHOOL AT OAK-  
HAM, RUTLAND.

1st. **A**LL inhabitants of the parish to be admitted.

2d. No persons to receive relief from the parish upon account of their families, who refuse to send their children to the school: unless they can prove, to the satisfaction of the overseers, that they can employ them to more advantage elsewhere.

3d. They are to be instructed gratis in spinning jersey, and linen, and in knitting: those who choose it, in reading; and those, who can bring work with them, in sewing.

4th. The hours of work to be from eight to one, and from two to seven; from one to two, dinner and rest. No work after dinner on Saturdays.

5th. A dinner to be provided for those who choose to dine at the school on the working days; for which they are to pay each sixpence per week.

6th. In case of illness, the dinner may be sent for to their homes.

7th. The portions, if the dinner is sent out, to be as follows:

One pint and half of pease porridge.

ditto ditto of rice milk.

ditto ditto rice broth.

One pound and half of potatoe pudding.

Those, who dine at the school, to have as much as they choose to eat, and a quarter of a pound of bread each ; except on the pudding and rice milk days, when no bread is allowed.

8th. The whole of the earnings to belong to the children.

### OBSERVATIONS.

A spinning school had been established at Oakham, in 1787 : but, till this arrangement took place, the children used to go home to their dinner ; which was attended with great inconvenience in wet and bad weather, and with loss of time : as, frequently, when the weather was very bad, they did not return after dinner ; and sometimes did not go at all.

In order to establish the present system, the dinners, for the first fortnight, were given gratis, and the parents invited to taste them ; after that they were informed that the children of those who approved of the plan, *might* dine there, upon paying *sixpence a week* ; and those, whose parents preferred their dining at home, *might* continue to do so. The whole of the parents approved much of their dining at the school ; and the whole number, which amounts to between sixty and seventy, dine there, and pay their money. They do more work in the week by these means, and get a much better dinner

than they could at home. Several children come there, whose parents do not receive relief.

By purchasing the different articles wholesale, by the use of barley bread (which is customary at that place), and by means of a Rumford copper, the expence for the dinners and fuel has never exceeded the sixpence per head.

The peas porridge, and pudding, are taken from Count Rumford's book, with some alterations, which make them rather more expensive, but certainly better.

I conceive that the success, which has hitherto attended this plan, is owing to its having been left to the *option* of the parents, whether their children should dine there or not.

16th March, 1797.

## No. V.

*Extract from an account of the jail and house of correction at Dorchester. By WILLIAM MORTON PITT, Esq.*

THE building of the new jail, at Dorchester, and the reform in the management of the old one, began in 1790. The old house of correction at Sherborne was sold in 1794, and its prisoners were transferred to one of the wings of the new prison, which was then appointed the house of correction for the county. From that period both establishments have been under the direction of the same keeper, and under the inspection of the same magistrates; and have had but one chaplain, surgeon, &c. The present prison, built on a plan approved by Mr. Howard, cost £16,179. 10s. 6d. and was first occupied in December, 1793. It contains eighty-eight sleeping cells, besides those for the condemned, the reception cells, and working cells, which are all *single*—the infirmaries, two large dormitories for male debtors, in addition to the cells in the debtors' wing, and two for female debtors and female fines, and also dark *single* cells for the refractory. Each dormitory contains four beds, but is capable of containing more in case of necessity.

In 1791, manufactures were introduced, for the employment of all such prisoners, as either were

compelled by law, or could be induced by encouragement, to work. Convicts, and all persons sentenced to imprisonment and hard labour (to whom the law has not already allotted any certain portion of their earnings), are allowed one-sixth part thereof, besides broth in addition to their bread; and, if they earn to the amount of five shillings per week, they are also allowed meat.\* Debtors, and persons committed for trial, not being compellable to work, enjoy the whole of their earnings, if they purchase their own raw materials and sell the produce on their own account; but, if they are supplied with the materials, and the county has the risk of the

\* In many of our houses of correction the prisoner even to this day, are fed chiefly, and *without distinction*, on bread and water; a diet that has been found to have a tendency to dropsical complaints; and that has as little good effect on the health of the culprit, as the indiscriminate system of treatment, devoid of inducement, or encouragement, can produce on his morality and industry. The persons confined might (as I think will appear from many of these reports) be very comfortably fed, at the same expense as they now are on bread and water; especially if a difference was made in the diet of the industrious and well behaved, and of the idle and vicious, as has been done with great effect at Dorchester. That, and the securing to them a fixed and liberal interest in their labour, to be paid them on their discharge, would produce an immediate change in our prisons and houses of correction; and make them really the instruments of correcting, instead of their being as at present, the means of increasing, habits of vice, despondency, and idleness. The wild beast may be starved into submission, or compelled to subjection; but beings endowed with reason, and destined by their Creator for social intercourse, are not to be reformed *merely* by solitary confinement, by depression of condition, or privation of food; there must be added—encouragement to those who do well—distinction between them and the ill-behaved; the objects of labour must be made easily attainable, and its consequences and advantages desirable. B. 17th of March, 1798.



sale of the goods, they have then only the half of such earnings.

In all cases, except where debtors and others voluntarily working, provide themselves with materials, the jailer is allowed one-sixth of the earnings, as a gratuity for his extra trouble, and as an incitement to further exertions ; and the remainder (after deducting the jailer's and prisoner's shares) is placed to the credit of the county. The full amount, however, of the shares of the earnings, except those of debtors, are not paid to the prisoners until their discharge, but are carried to their respective accounts ; and two-pence per week only is allowed them for the purpose of procuring for themselves any little indulgencies, consistent with the police of the prison ; even the sums placed to their accounts being liable, in the whole, or in part, to forfeiture, in case of misbehaviour. There are instances of men who have received eight or ten pounds, or more, on quitting the prison ; and the money has for the most part been laid out by them in clothes, tools, furniture, a stock of bacon, or other provisions, &c. for their future comfort and advantage.\*

\* It were much to be wished that the example, of the reform of Dorchester jail and house of correction, were followed in every prison and house of correction in the kingdom. The reader will perceive that it has been produced, by securing to the prisoner, not only a preference in diet and accommodation, but a *certain and liberal share* of the earnings of his industry, and by husbanding that produce for him against the time of his quitting the house ; so that he may go out, not only with habits of application and with character, but with the means of subsistence, and of carrying his industry to the most advantageous markets.



The produce of the work, the expense of maintenance, &c. are stated in the table, No. I. In No. II. is added an account of the manner in which the donations left the prison, and other charitable contributions have been applied, in liberating and assisting debtors ; in aid and relief to other prisoners discharged at the assizes or sessions, and in rewards to persons, who have heretofore been in confinement, and who have obtained certificates properly authenticated of their industry, honesty, and good behaviour, in the services in which they have been since they have left the jail.

To expect, from the general mass of mankind, *a willing continuance in labour from day to day*, without the spur of interest, without an object of expectation, and without the engagement of the inclination by a share, at least, of the profits, — or to hope for success in the attempts daily made, in our houses of correction, to *compel* prisoners to work, not as the means of increased comfort and advantage to them, but as a *punishment* of their offences, is absurd and ridiculous — Compare the difference between that which persons may be *induced*, and what they may be *compelled*, to do. — In the spinning-school at Epping, a little child, of 9 years old, will, with cheerfulness and pleasure, and without abridging its hours of play and recreation, earn four-pence a day ; and will dine plentifully and comfortably, for a penny ; while a stout active man, in the prime of life, in one of our houses of correction, with an allowance of *nine-pence* a day for his food, is (in a state of mortification and suffering) earning ONE PENNY A DAY in picking oakum. B. 17th March, 1798.

TABLE No. I.  
Number of prisoners, account of earnings and salaries.

|   | 1791.                      | 1792.                      | 1793.                      | 1794.                       | 1795.                       | 1796.                       |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Average number of prisoners in the several years                      | 40                         | 47                         | 50                         | 50                          | 51                          | 49                          |
| General amount of earnings in the several years                       | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>51 6 11 | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>275 6 0 | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>287 2 0 | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>366 11 5 | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>382 5 11 | <i>l. s. d.</i><br>462 12 0 |
| Annual average of each prisoner's individual earnings                 | 1 5 7                      | 5 17 0                     | 5 14 10                    | 7 6 7                       | 7 9 11                      | 9 8 8                       |
| General amount of prisoner's <i>shares</i> of earnings                | 8 15 6                     | 75 5 1                     | 60 16 11                   | 64 0 5                      | 72 3 5                      | 99 43                       |
| Amount of salaries, a permanent expense attached to the establishment | 0 4 10                     | 1 12 0                     | 1 4 4                      | 1 5 7                       | 1 8 3                       | 2 0 5                       |
|   | 270 0 0                    | 270 0 0                    | 270 0 0                    | 293 10 0                    | 298 0 0                     | 298 0 0                     |

\* N. B. The working system did not commence till late in the year 1791.

TABLE No. II.

Application of donations and charitable contributions.

|   | 1792.     |           | 1793.     |           | 1794.     |           | 1795.     |           | 1796.     |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| Paid for the liberation of debtors  | 0         | 0         | 21        | 7         | 25        | 4         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 0         |
| Paid to prisoners on their discharge  | 1         | 17        | 1         | 1         | 11        | 1         | 3         | 9         | 2         | 10        |
| Paid gratuities to debtors by order   | 2         | 0         | 3         | 3         | 4         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Paid for coals for debtors  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 9         | 9         | 16        | 0         | 0         |
| Paid for clothes for a distressed convict on his discharge  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 14        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Paid rewards to persons who had been discharged, and afterwards obtained certificates of good behaviour | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 4         | 4         | 4         | 5         | 5         |

## OBSERVATIONS.

In this institution, the object has been to combine the two principles of industry\* and reflection, and,

\* Upon examining the general produce of labour, in a workhouse or house of correction, it should seem that there is something in the name, the air, the situation, or in the *system* of them, that palsies the power of human industry, and reduces the energy of a strong vigorous man to a level with that of an helpless child.—I am extremely happy in being able to state an exception, equally honourable to the individual, to the magistrates; and to Mr. Ayres, the governor of the Middlesex house of correction, in Cold-Bath Fields.—In February, 1797, a person was committed to that house for a twelvemonth, on account of his concern in a fraudulent transaction, which he had been drawn into by a combination of artful Jews; and, in the progress of which, he had been stripped of nearly all his own property. He was a smith, and a very excellent workman. With permission of the magistrates, Mr. Ayres, the governor, fitted him up a forge, and employed him to repair the locks of the house, which are 800 in number, and were got into bad condition. The locks are, of necessity, large, and of an expensive construction. In the course of eleven months, ending on the 8th of February, 1798, he cleaned and put in order all the locks in the prison, so completely, that they are now better than when they were first put on. During those eleven months, he has, by his own wish, extended his working hours beyond those of the other prisoners. He had sometimes the assistance of a person to blow his bellows; but he has compensated for this by doing a good deal of other work in the house, besides repairing locks. The whole, therefore, of that work may be fairly placed to his own account. Estimating what he has done, at a lower rate than the county smith has ever charged to the house, his eleven months' work amounts to the sum of 169*l.* 12*s.* On the time of his confinement being expired, the magistrates ordered him a donation of 30*l.* out of the produce of his work. He then said, that he had received such ill treatment in the world, and had experienced such kindness and real friendship in that place from the governor of the house, that, if he could maintain his wife and two children decently by his labour, he would pass the remainder of his days there.

by the judicious application of solitude in a greater or lesser degree as the specific cases may require, to reform the offenders, so as to restore them to society in an improved state, and encourage them to persevere in a course of industry and virtue.—The attempt has in a great measure succeeded.

In the last six years there have been but as many instances of offenders having been a second time committed to prison; viz. one for felony, two for petty larceny, one for an assault, one for leaving his family chargeable, and one for returning unlawfully to her parish after an order of removal. Of those, who have been discharged, twenty-seven have entered into the sea service, nine into the land service; and thirty-five are known to be, at this time, maintaining themselves and their families by honest industry. This would probably be found to have been the case with many more, who are strangers to the county, if information were obtained of their present residence and situations in life.

*9th March, 1797.*

An apartment has, in consequence, been fitted up for him and his wife; his two children being placed in a charity school: he is appointed the county smith, and she the inspectress of the female prisoners, with a salary perfectly satisfactory to them both. I am favoured with this account by the Rev. Dr. Glasse. *B. 17th April, 1798.*

## No. VI.

*Extract from an account of a provision made upon an inclosure, for supplying the poor with fuel. By EDWARD PARRY, Esq.*

UPON the inclosure of the parish of Little Dunham in the county of Norfolk, in the year 1794, being lord of the manor, I got a clause inserted, directing the commissioners to set out a parcel of land, to be called the POOR'S ESTATE, and to be vested in the lord of the manor, rector, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor for the time being, and to be let by them for 21 years on lease; the rents and profits to be laid out by them in fuel, to be delivered at the cottages of the poor, in such proportions as the trustees should think proper.

Although the prejudices of the poor, against the inclosure, were very great before it took place, the moment they saw the land inclosed, and let as *the poor's estate* for 21 years by auction, at the rate of 50*l.* a year (although only estimated by the commissioners at 20*l.* a year) they were highly gratified; and they have indeed great reason to rejoice, being now most amply supplied with that great comfort of life. This has been so apparent, that some neighbouring inclosures have followed the example, and it appears to me to be adviseable, that such a plan should be generally made known.

The first idea was to sell the land, and place the money in the public funds, in order to produce a



larger income ; but I found that was not understood by the poor ; they said, they might at any time be deprived of the money, and they had no interest in the land inclosed ; whereas, in the mode pursued, they considered themselves as having a permanent and improveable estate, which their children would inherit. These prejudices are valuable ; as in their consequences they produce, if attended to, industry and content.

I have had occasion to observe as to fuel, which is certainly an important article to the poor, that where there are commons, the ideal advantage of cutting flags, peat, or whins, often causes a poor man to spend more time in procuring such fuel, than, if he reckoned his labour, would purchase for him double that quantity of good firing,

*2d March, 1797.*

## No. VII.

*Extract from an account of the mode adopted, as to  
parochial relief, in the hundred of Stoke, Bucks,  
By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

**I**N December, 1795, when the applications of the poor for relief were necessarily much increased by the high price of bread, it appeared to the magistrates of the hundred of Stoke; that a regular book, by way of register of the cases relieved in that district, might be of considerable use; and might tend to put the relief given to the poor on a more regular system.

With that view, a folio book was prepared with four columns; the first containing the name of the pauper and his parish; and whether he (or any other person) was *sworn* to the circumstances of his case, or whether those circumstances were *admitted* by the overseer on his personal knowledge: in the second column, his own account of the condition of his family, and of the amount of their earnings; in the third, the relief asked; and in the fourth, the order or agreement respecting it.

The heads of the four columns occupy the long side of a folio page. The following (though not containing real names or cases) may serve as a specimen of the form of the book, and the manner of entering the examination and agreement (or order) for relief.

1796. Feb 8.

| Applicants and<br>a ish.            | Number of children, ages, and<br>circumstances.   | Weekly<br>earnings.                | Request of the<br>applicants.                              | Order or agreement, and reasons<br>for the same.   |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| John Smith,<br>Eaton.<br>admitted.  | A wife and six children,<br>four of them under seven<br>years of age.<br>He earns -<br>His wife -<br>The 2 elder children | s. d.<br>9 0<br>3 0<br>2 0<br>14 0 | Four shillings a<br>week for his four<br>younger children. | Agreed—three shillings a<br>week in the whole, during<br>the present high price of<br>bread. |
| Peter Thomas,<br>Datchet.<br>sworn. | A sick wife, and five chil-<br>dren under ten years of<br>age.<br>He earns  | 12 0                               | Four shillings a<br>week for the wife<br>and children.     | Ordered—for the next<br>month, and then to be<br>renewed if the wife con-<br>tinues ill.     |

To this book there is a separate index, which enables the magistrate to refer to the case and particular circumstances of any pauper, who, having been relieved at a former petty sessions, has occasion to make a further application.—In March, 1796, the magistrates sent round to the different parishes in the hundred, the following notice.

### “ HUNDRED OF STOKE, BUCKS.

“ In order to encourage industry and economy,  
“ and to explain their general plan of granting relief for the poor, the magistrates give notice,  
“ that particular notice is paid by them to the  
“ number of children of any age to require relief;  
“ and to the degree of industry of the person applying, and of every part of his or her family : and  
“ that, for this purpose, a book is kept by them, in  
“ which these circumstances, and any other intitling the party to relief, are entered before any  
“ order is made.

“ The magistrates, having hitherto granted relief *at home* to persons applying on account of children under seven years of age, have it now in their power, under the provisions of an act lately passed, to extend that relief to industrious and sober persons, who have in part, though not entirely, the means of comfort and subsistence in their own dwellings : they therefore declare that, in all cases, where any parish workhouse is *farmed out*, they shall consider that circumstance as an additional reason for giving (as far

“ as the law authorizes) relief *at home* to the industrious and well disposed poor of that parish ; it appearing that the farming of a parish workhouse sets the interest of the party in opposition to his duty, and prevents the relief, that the poor are by law intitled to, and which they would otherwise receive.

“ They also recommend to the parishes not to lessen at all (or at least in a very small degree) the relief to the labouring poor, on account of any allowance the party may receive from any friendly society ; or on account of any little portion of property, which his industry or economy may have treasured up against an evil day ; such a conduct tending to discourage frugality, and to increase the parish burthens.”

This notice was signed by Sir Charles Palmer, Mr. Sullivan, Sir Robert Harvey, Mr. Penn, Sir William Johnston, and myself, acting magistrates for the hundred of Stoke ; and printed copies of it circulated, pretty generally, throughout all the parishes in the hundred.

## OBSERVATIONS.

I have had many opportunities of observing, that the industrious and well disposed poor are gratified by every inquiry that is made respecting their industry and good conduct ; and that they are frequently much hurt and discouraged by so little distinction (indeed, in some instances, no distinction at all) being made between them and the idle and

profligate poor. The mode of inquiry, and the registry and publicity that attends it, have had the effect of giving satisfaction and encouragement to the well disposed poor in that neighbourhood ; and they have felt that, in this mode, relief was impartially granted to them, according to the *necessity* and *industry* of the family. At the same time, the inquiry, that has been always made after the *earnings* of every branch of the family, has tended to keep up in them a disposition to activity and exertion.

This method has, at the same time, aided and directed the overseer, in the execution of that most important part of his duty, the relief of the poor ; and it has saved some trouble to the magistrate, by reducing, with the aid of the printed titles, the examination of the pauper to the essential points, which are always very few.

In some parts of England tables have been printed, by order of the magistrates, fixing the precise amount of parochial relief, in those districts, according to the number of children, and the price of bread. This, I conceive, is liable to this objection ;\* that every thing, in the nature of a *fixed*

\* Neither increase of wages merely, nor donations in charity, nor *any* advantages to *any* extent, can effectually improve the condition of the poor, unless inducement be added for industry and economy. No provision can be properly made for the labourer, by way of wages, that will be sufficient for a man, his wife, and a large family of young children : but if, by encouragement, you can induce young men, while single, to lay up a little store of money against they marry, and can enable them to give that money an increasing produce in proportion as the family increases, the whole object may be attained at present, under our existing



income, independent of personal industry and economy, has a tendency to weaken the energy of the poor, and to diminish their exertions for their own support. The fact is well known, that no places contain a more comfortless class of poor, than those where there are many *large* and *certain* *charities* for distribution.

In the notice from the magistrates, there is an inclination expressed, to give relief to all industrious and well disposed poor *at home*. This was done under the impression, that the best and most useful relief is that, which gives *comfort* and *encouragement*

system. It is chiefly by promoting the means of comfort, with every act of kindness and attention which can disseminate and increase the benefits of industry and economy, that the Society hopes to be useful. The good effect of such measures is unquestionable.—That from every other species of charity, which may tend to render our fellow subjects inert and helpless, is *at least* doubtful as to its consequences. The best relief that the poor can receive (as Sir Frederick Eden has well expressed it) *must come from themselves*. It must be derived from their own exertions, aided by the voluntary and disinterested encouragement of the other classes of society. The fruits of industry and good management contribute to civilize the mind, and to form elevated and independent principles: equally distant from mean servility, and from savage and noxious democracy. The innate energy of man is destroyed by a daily and regular expectation of support. If I was to make any exception, it would be in favour of a certain allowance for the young children of labourers; “not as a humiliating badge of incapacity,” (I take my words from a pamphlet just published, entitled the Connection between Industry and Property) “but as an honourable contribution of the society at large, towards the support of the rising generation.”

This was one of the provisions in the late bill for the better support and maintenance of the poor. I regret that this clause, and that to prevent the present mode of farming workhouses, have not passed into a law. B. 30th April, 1798.

to the industrious labourer in *his own cottage*, and in the care and education of *his children*; preserving thereby, unimpaired, those bonds of affection, which attach him to his condition and situation in life, and are the most potent incentives to virtue and industry. I will venture to add, that in cases where, from mere sickness or misfortune, a cottager is in debt, or what is called behind hand in the world, occasional assistance from the parish, to the amount of even a few pounds, is not only most benefit to the poor person, but eventually an act of prudence and economy on the part of the parish. The persons, however, voting and applying the poor's-rate, being often only tenants at will and at rack-rents, have very little interest in any *permanent* improvement of the condition of the poor; though with a tendency to make them better and happier, and to diminish parochial expences.

Some effect has been produced by the declaration that “where any parish workhouse is farmed out, the magistrates would consider that circumstance, as an additional reason for giving (as far as the law authorizes) relief, at home, to the industrious and well disposed poor of that parish.” This practice, the effect of indolence in the overseers and vestry, and the cause of a variety of evils, was then very general in that district: only one workhouse, I believe, is now farmed in that hundred.

With regard to the mention which the magistrates have made of *friendly societies*, I should observe, that an idea had prevailed that persons, intitled to assistance from any friendly society,

however small that assistance might be, were to be considered as having waved their claim to parochial relief. This idea, it was apprehended, might operate to the discouragement of those useful institutions. The overseers concurred in the opinion, and, in one instance, agreed to an allowance, part of the object of which was to enable the pauper to continue his monthly payment at his club, during the continuance of the winter, and of the high price of bread. It was, therefore, thought proper for the magistrates to declare their opinion, that the members of friendly societies should by no means be excluded from relief; though, at the same time, we were satisfied, that they would seldom have occasion, or inclination, to apply for it.

*16th March, 1797.*

## No. VIII.

*Extract from an account of a parish windmill on Barham Downs, in the county of Kent. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

IN January, 1796, a parish windmill was erected by subscription on Barham Downs, very near the village of Barham. The subscribers were eight in number ; the subscriptions 40*l.* each. The whole cost of the mill (which began to work on the 5th of April, 1796, and contains two pair of stones, one for wheat, and one for other corn) was 336*l.* : the expence of the scales and utensils of different kinds was 17*l.* ; the whole together amounting to 353*l.*, being 33*l.* more than the original sum subscribed. This surplus of expence was discharged out of the extra profits of the mill, that were received between the 5th of April, 1796, and the 1st of January, 1797.

By an agreement between the subscribers it was settled that (after payment of the miller's wages, the repairs of the mill, and other necessary expences, together with interest at five per cent. on the subscriptions) half of the surplus of the profits should be set apart, as a fund towards discharging the monies advanced, until the same should be reduced to 150*l.* ; the remainder of the surplus in the mean time (and ultimately the whole of it) being applied for the benefit of the labouring industrious poor of

the parish of Barham,\* in such manner as the subscribers should think proper; it being their determined resolution not to appropriate any part of it to their own use.

The mill is already so far in profit, as to give a fair prospect of producing a fund, for discharging by degrees the greater part of the money originally subscribed, and for providing for the future expences of the repairs of the mill, which will necessarily increase as it grows older. The miller attends constantly every day: as well for the purpose of grinding corn in small quantities, by preference for the poor, as of grinding for any of the farmers or neighbours. The fixed price for grinding at the mill is four-pence a bushel, with an allowance of half a pound only for waste, which is found to be sufficient: whereas the neighbouring millers† used

\* I hope the proprietors will excuse my expressing a hope, that this surplus may be applied in giving aid and encouragement to those labourers, whose industry and economy have enabled them to do without parochial relief; by furnishing the annual premium of a cow, a pig, or the fitting up of a cottage, as the means of enabling them to thrive, and of raising them above the condition of applying for relief under the poor's rate. *9th Feb. 1798.*

† The price for grinding, taken by millers in the neighbourhood of Canterbury, before this mill was set up, was 6*d.* a bushel: they have now reduced it to 3*d.*—When, indeed, the millers take toll, the amount of it is various; sometimes as high as a tenth, and sometimes as low as a sixteenth, or even a 20th: supposing it put on an average at a 14th. During the late scarcity, corn was in some parts of England, at one time, as high as a guinea a bushel; the toll on which would be one shilling and sixpence; but when it is recollected, that the miller's toll is always taken from the best of the meal and from the finer flour that is in the centre of the hopper, the value of that toll cannot be less than 2*s.* 6*d.* a bushel. If, in addition to these circumstances, we advert to the fact, that, during the scarcity of



to charge six-pence a bushel for grinding, with a deduction of one pound a bushel for waste.

There is a fourteen-shilling cloth, to dress the flour for those, who bring their own corn. People are sure of having their own corn returned to them, which is not generally the case in corn mills; and if they please, they may stay and see it ground, and take it away with them. A bushel of corn takes in grinding about ten minutes. The consequence of these regulations is, that the neighbours bring their corn, by preference, to this mill to grind.

The meal is sold to the poor of the parish of Barham, and of the four adjoining parishes, for ready money only, at a rate which is fixed once a week, according to the average price of wheat at Canterbury on the preceding Saturday. In fixing the price, there is a profit reserved, of two shillings and eight-pence per quarter for grinding; the proprietors taking upon themselves the risk of the fluctuation of the market. This price has been, on an average, rather more than one shilling per bushel, or three halfpence a gallon cheaper than that of the neighbouring millers. It is sold to the poor at one halfpenny a gallon cheaper than the price, at which it is sold to the tradesmen and farmers: but no meal is sold at the mill except the *whole meal*; the object of which is to hold out a

wheat, some millers purchased at half price foreign and damaged corn, which they mixed with English wheat; we shall have reason to believe that *five shillings a bushel* on grinding wheat, is not more than may have been made, in some instances, during that period of scarcity. 9th Feb. 1792.



prevalent inducement to make bread of the whole meal, without taking out the bran and coarse flour.

No meal is sold but for ready money : every one comes and fetches it away at his own expence. There is a general day for delivery of meal to the poor once a week. Upon that day a person attends from nine of the clock in the morning till twelve, on behalf of the subscribers, to see the delivery of the meal, and the payment of the money, and to cast up the books. The same person is employed to purchase the corn ; and great care is taken that no wheat shall be purchased, but what is of the very best quality : by which means the customers are sure of not having any musty or damaged wheat ; a most material circumstance to the poor, who are too frequently obliged to take bad meal from the common millers.—It may be right to observe that since the erection of this mill, the neighbouring millers have sold their flour much nearer to the price of the wheat than they did formerly.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The conversion of many corn mills into cotton mills, and for other purposes of manufactures, has enabled the millers in many parts of England, to establish a monopoly in the most important article of life. How they have used the advantages, which they have derived from the number of corn mills being diminished, and how much the poor have suffered by it, is too well known, and has been too deeply and generally felt, to require any observa-

tion. By the preceding detail it appears, that it is in the power of the other classes of society, with very little trouble and without any expence, to protect the poor against this very baneful monopoly ; and to rescue them from the hands of persons, who, to say the least, have not used their power with moderation. This is an object of very great importance, which may be immediately and effectually obtained, by the erection of parish mills, similar to that on Barham Downs, for the establishment of which, the public is indebted to the philanthropy and spirit of Mr. Oxendon and the other subscribers.

Such mills, in country districts, would secure to the poor, at reduced and moderate prices, and of a good quality and honest measure, that which is to them the most material article of subsistence ; and would be the means of inducing people in general, instead of rejecting all except the finest flour, to use the *whole meal* ; thereby husbanding with more economy that necessary article of life, on the abundance of which so much of their comfort depends.

N. B. A parish mill has been very lately erected at Chislehurst in Kent, by a subscription of ten ladies and gentlemen there. It is built on an elevated and beautiful part of Chislehurst Common ; two acres of which have been granted by the lord of the manor, for the site of the mill and house, and for a garden and little field to it ; on the express condition of two specific days every week, Monday and Tuesday, being allotted to grinding for the poor of Chislehurst, in preference to all

other persons ; on which days the miller is to have a pair of stones, ready to grind for any poor person who brings a bushel of corn, or any small quantity ; which person, if he pleases, may stay and see it ground immediately, and take it away with him, paying in ready money at the rate of four-pence a bushel for grinding.—On failure of these conditions the mill and ground are to be forfeited.

It is only a short time, that this mill has been working. I depend on it as the subject of an interesting communication, in a future Report of the Society. In the mean time I shall only observe, that the poor can now purchase their flour there, with ready money, for near two shillings a bushel under the price of the shops in that country : at the same time getting it of a good quality and fair measure. This mill is built on a large scale, and contains in it a great deal of very curious mechanism.—It has been erected under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Wollaston, the rector of Chislehurst.

*27th Oct. 1797.*

## No. IX.

*Extract from an account of a village shop, for supplying the poor with coals at prime cost. By the Rev. Dr. GLASSE.*

HAVING long observed, that there is scarcely any article of life, in respect to which the poor are under greater difficulties, or for the supply of which they have stronger temptations to dishonest practices, than that of fuel, I have been induced, in the parish of Greenford, in Middlesex, and in that of Wanstead in Essex, to lay in a certain quantity of coals every summer, when they are to be purchased at a moderate price, perhaps at two guineas a chaldron at the wharf, and to have them brought in my own carts from the water side. As soon as the winter sets in, the poor have liberty to apply for any quantity, not less at one time than half a bushel, nor more than a bushel, every Monday in the afternoon; for which the price is one shilling a bushel, being equal to one pound sixteen shillings per chaldron. They are expected to bring ready money; and they bring it with great cheerfulness, as they are very sensible of the benefit of it.—What is sold at the shops is of an inferior sort; the price one shilling and sixpence per bushel.

## OBSERVATIONS.

I have the satisfaction of knowing that the poor are hereby supplied with as good coals as myself,

upon reasonable terms, and with good measure. I am afraid that they had been but ill supplied before ; as I am sorry to say they are in very many other articles of life, as to quality, quantity, and price : and hence it is that I am induced to think, that there is hardly any mode of affording essential relief to the poor, more promising than that of extending what is here done respecting coals, to other necessary articles of their daily consumption. A subscription set on foot for this purpose, would, I think, be attended with the happiest consequences. The benefit arising from the relief afforded them in this article of coals, is obvious : they are habituated to pay for what they have ; whereas at the shop they run in debt. When their credit was at an end, they contrived to do without coals, by having recourse to wood stealing ; than which I know no practice which tends more effectually to introduce into young minds a habit of dishonesty ; it is also very injurious to the farmer, and excites a degree of resentment in his breast, which, in many instances, renders him averse to affording relief to the poor, even where real necessity calls loudly for it.

The trouble and expense of setting up a coal shop in any village is trifling ; and no law will ever be made against wood stealing, that will so much operate to prevent it, as such a provision for the benefit of the poor.

23<sup>d</sup> Oct. 1797.



## No. X.

*Extract from an account of the manner and expense of making stewed ox's head for the poor. By Mrs. SHORE of Norton-Hall, Derbyshire.*

ONE of the members of the society having requested the particulars of the ox-head stew, which is given away at Norton Hall, I have prepared the following account.—The whole is divided into 52 messes ; each mess containing a piece of meat, a piece of fat, and a quart of soup. The distribution of it has been continued since October, 1792, once a week, and sometimes oftener, from October to May. The poor people receive it very thankfully, and generally reserve part of the mess for the second day.

The manner of preparing it is as follows.—Wash the ox's head *very clean and well*, and then put it into thirteen gallons of water ; add a peck and a half of pared potatoes, a quartern of turnips, half a quartern of onions, a few carrots, a handful of pot-herbs, and the liquor of any boiled meat of the family, in which no vegetable has been boiled : thicken it with two quarts of oatmeal, and add pepper and salt to your taste ; set it to stew with a gentle fire, early in the afternoon, allowing as little evaporation as may be, and not skimming off the fat : but leaving the whole to stew gently over the fire, which should be renewed, and made up at



night. Make a small fire under the boiler at seven o'clock in the morning, and keep adding as much water as will make up the waste by evaporation, keeping it gently stewing till noon, when it will be ready to serve for dinner.

The whole is then to be divided into 52 messes; each containing (by a previous division of the meat and fat) a piece of meat and fat, and a quart of savoury nourishing soup.

The expense of the materials in the northern counties, where it has been tried, may be thus stated :

|                               |   |   | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| ox's head                     | - | - | 1         | 6         |
| a peck and a half of potatoes | - | - | 0         | 7½        |
| onions, turnips, &c.          | - | - | 0         | 4½        |
|                               |   |   | <hr/>     |           |
|                               |   |   | 2         | 6         |

This amounts, exclusive of fuel and trouble, to rather more than a halfpenny for each mess, or not quite two-pence halfpenny a gallon; but, in the dearer part of England, the articles being purchased by retail, the mess may cost as much as three farthings or a penny.

The beef and other bones, and crusts of bread, of the family may be added to the stew; and will improve the soup, without any additional expense.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The above is submitted to the consideration of those house-keepers, who have not yet adopted a

similar charity, as a cheap and useful mode of relieving their poor neighbours, and of gradually teaching them a better system of diet, than they at present possess. The sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for seven months (amounting to £3. 15*s.* a year) in the cheap parts of England, and a few shillings more in the others, is the expense of a charity, which may retain on its lists fifty-two poor persons, and supply them with the comfort of two meals a week.

This receipt was tried by a gentleman, to whom I gave a copy of it, in September last, at Auckland workhouse; and was, as I understand, extremely liked by the poor. Though the expense was very small, yet the quantity produced being a great deal more than the people of the workhouse could use, the cottagers near the workhouse were desired to send for messes of it; and had, in consequence, the benefit of a plenteous and unexpected meal. It is now inserted in their table of diet, to be made once a week for the benefit of the poor, both in and out of the workhouse.—This dish requires more attention, and more conveniences for cookery, than are to be found in every cottage. It would be a good thing if a part of every workhouse was converted into a parochial cook's shop, to furnish the poor, who receive no other relief, with cheap and nourishing dishes, which they have neither the means, skill, or inclination to make.

*29th Oct. 1797.*

## No. XI.

*Extract from an account of an annual distribution of linen to the poor, with a proposal as to a mode of supplying them with blankets. By the Rev. Mr. DOLLING, late Vicar of Aldenham, Herts.*

A WORTHY friend annually confided to me the distribution of five guineas, for the benefit of the poor. With them I purchased about 110 yards of linen cloth, which was cut out chiefly into shifts, the pieces of each being pinned together. I kept an annual linen list, giving at Christmas a shift each to about thirty-seven women, and occasionally a shift to a girl, or a shirt to a boy : so that they all had this benefit in their turns, and some more deserving mothers, with large families, constantly ; the preference being given to those, who did not receive parochial relief.—Whenever they attended together at my house to receive the linen, I took the opportunity of pointing out to them any improprieties in their conduct, deserving of observation. What was then said, was often attended with good effect.

## OBSERVATIONS.

At the same time that it must be admitted that the poor are not provident, it should be observed in their exculpation, that they frequently have not the means of being so. It seldom happens, when winter

approaches, that they have been able to make, or at least that they have made, a sufficient provision for clothing during the severity of the season ; and their health, often suffers for want of it. If blankets were purchased, and lent out to cottagers in November, a register book being kept, and the blankets marked, and No. 1. 2, &c. placed against each name, and signed by the borrower, to be returned again clean in the ensuing month of May, unless the cottager could become the purchaser of it, at a limited and reduced price, it would contribute greatly to their health and comfort during the winter.

*5th August, 1797.*

## No. XII.

*Extract from an account of the kitchen fitted up at the Foundling under the direction of COUNT RUMFORD. By the Matron of the Foundling.*

IN March, 1796, Count Rumford made the offer of his assistance, in fitting up, on his principles, a kitchen at the Foundling. His proposal was immediately accepted with thanks; and the kitchen has now had a fair trial, having been in constant use for above a twelvemonth. The saving to the hospital in fuel is very considerable, being about 25 chaldron of coals a year. The quantity annually consumed has been hitherto 35 chaldron; at present it is only 10. There were two cooks in the old kitchen, and they had a severe and hot service; one cook, in the present kitchen, has a very easy one, and the food, particularly the roast beef, is better dressed than formerly.

There are difficulties which attend the use of all new and valuable inventions at first. In this kitchen they were very few, and they were soon obviated; and the cook now manages her new kitchen, with much more ease and satisfaction to herself, than she did her old one. The kitchen (the size of the room being 17 feet by 21) contains a large iron boiler divided into two parts, one of 82, and the other of 41 gallons; at the further end of which, and just above it is a steam box; which, with the waste steam of the boiler, and without any addition of



fuel, is capable of dressing 200lb. weight of potatoes. This double boiler and box will dress a dinner for above four hundred persons. They are both served by one small fire, which does not consume, for a day's dinner, more than a peck of coals and a peck of cinders, the price of the peck of coals (reckoning them as dear as £2. 12s. a chaldron) being *four-pence*; the cinders are saved from the consumption of the former day. On the other side of the room, there are two lesser boilers, one of them divided into two parts; and in the centre of the wall, opposite the windows, is the roasting machine,\* which is 5 feet deep, 2 feet wide, and

\* Inquiries having been made respecting the dimensions of the iron work and flues of the roaster and boilers, I add this note.—The roaster is sixty inches deep, twenty-six and a half wide, and sixteen high: the grate, which is under the roaster and supplies it with heat, is twenty-two inches long, ten inches wide, and fourteen and three quarters high; the ash-hole under the grate is twenty-three inches high; and the doors of this and of the other grates and ash-holes are each ten inches wide, and seven inches and a half high. The two pipes, for forcing hot air into the roaster, are two inches and three quarters diameter. The lower flue of the roaster is fifteen inches high, and four and a half wide, and winds partly under it; and the upper flue is also four inches and a half wide, spreading in a semicircle over the top of the roaster.—The larger boiler is sixty inches long, by thirty-six wide, and nineteen inches high: the grate under it is twenty-four inches long, fifteen and a half wide, and fourteen inches high; and the ash-hole under the grate eighteen inches high. The lower flue is six inches square, winding partly under the boiler; the upper one eight inches high, and five and a half wide.—Of the lesser oblong boiler the length is thirty-six inches, the width twenty-four, and the height eighteen inches: of the grate under it, the length is seventeen inches, the width ten, and the height fourteen inches; the ash-hole is fourteen inches high. The size of the steam-box, which is supplied by the waste steam of the large boiler, is forty-four inches long, twenty-four wide,



15 inches high. In this, on the roast meat days, the dinner being 112lb. of beef for the officers and children, is now dressed in four hours and a half, with a peck of coals and a peck of cinders. Sixteen months have passed since this roaster has been in constant use for dressing large dinners. I have just had the flue of the chimney cleaned: the dust which was taken out (and that not more than a peck) was a mixture of small ashes and soot; but more of the former than the latter. Indeed there did not appear to be any real soot among it. This can only be accounted for by the circumstance, of all the smoke being actually consumed and used in heating the roaster, instead of being discharged, as is usual, out of the chimney, to assist in increasing and darkening the atmosphere of London. The dampers mentioned by Count Rumford, in page 153 of his sixth number, were put up before the kitchen was finished, and have been of great use. I think the new kitchen does not require so much repair as the old one. The iron bars, at the bottom, are not burnt out near so soon as they used to be in the fire place under the old boilers. They generally wanted repairing once in six weeks: there are four fire places in the new kitchen, and in 16 months they have wanted only six new bars.

and eighteen high: the false cullender bottom being placed five inches above the bottom of the box. B. 16th April, 1798.

## OBSERVATIONS.

These boilers would be very useful in all parish workhouses. They would cause a very considerable saving of fuel, and almost as much of food ; the waste by evaporation, being, in general, much more than can be supposed, without an actual experiment made. In the usual mode of boiling, the waste by steam is about one-fifth. That this vapour carries with it a considerable part of the food and nourishment, may be easily ascertained by any one, who passes by any of the kitchens in London, where much soup is made : he will find the atmosphere around loaded with the waste of a great deal of valuable nourishment. There is another advantage belonging to these boilers, which is, that by means of the double rim, which is impervious to steam, they not only preclude waste in the food, but prevent its being contaminated by smoke, an inconvenience, to which the kitchens and cookery of the poor are peculiarly subject.

The double rim is filled by water, into which the projection of the cover of the boiler descends, so as absolutely to preclude any communication with the outward air or smoke.—The benefit of this double rim may be obtained without an entire new boiler, by making the double rim of lead, soldered round the mouth of the old copper, and fitting the cover to it. The expence is about a guinea for a common sized copper. It answered, as I am informed, very well, when tried at the poorhouse at

Auckland.—The double rim would be very useful also in smaller boilers, especially if intended for soup. Mr. Hopkins of Greek-street has just made one of ten quarts, for a village soup shop set up at Langly in Buckinghamshire.

Of the cautions in the use of Count Rumford's kitchens, one of the most necessary, and the most difficult to procure attention to, relates to the quantity of coal to be used.\* If, instead of the peck of coals, which is all that is necessary for one of these

\* The necessity of limiting the quantity of fuel to be used, cannot be too strongly or too frequently enforced; and it should be observed, that large coal is not so proper to mix with the cinders, as coal-dust that will hardly burn on a common fire. In every instance, that has come to my knowledge, of these kitchens not having succeeded, the failure has been owing to the improper waste of fuel. The operation of the fire is so much increased by the manner in which the grates and flues of these boilers and roasters are arranged, that the use of the same quantity of fuel in them, as in a common boiler, will very soon destroy all the iron work, by the intenseness of the heat. In one instance, where a Rumford boiler of 50 gallons had not answered, but was quite worn out at the end of five months, my first enquiry respected the quantity of coal used; and, by the answer, I found that there had been *six times* as much coal applied there, as is used in the Foundling kitchen for a boiler of more than twice that size. The wonder then was that the apparatus had lasted so long; but, upon examining it, this was explained; I found a hole broken between the flues, and that the stones (that are taken out to clean the flues) had not been properly put in again. By these means much of the heat escaped; but enough had remained, to destroy entirely several sets of bars in the grates, and to burn out the bottom of the boiler.—Many similar instances might be quoted, to shew the necessity of keeping strictly to the quantity of coals; which, for either the roaster or boiler at the Foundling is a peck of coal-dust, mixed with a peck of cinders; and, with this little quantity of fuel, there is warm water kept in the boiler the whole day, merely by the heat that remains after the dinner has been dressed. B.  
31st Jan. 1798.

boilers, the cook follows her acquired instinct, and lays on twice the quantity, or more, the operation, instead of receiving benefit, is prejudiced, and the roaster very much injured by the waste of coals. Where coals are used without limitation, there is very little chance of these boilers or roasters answering,

Nearly all the common fire places at the Foundling have been altered on Count Rumford's plan, and have answered very well ; that at the porter's lodge always smoked before it was altered. If cottages in general was so altered, at least where fuel is dear, it would be a very great benefit to them.

The old grates (whether mere iron bars, Bath stoves, or the common standing grate) have been in general used again, without any alteration, except in some cases a diminution in size. The little basket stoves, commonly called the vase stove, of the shape of a segment of a circle, do not (as far as I can learn) answer nearly as well as any of the abovementioned. They discharge dust into the room, and require an almost constant attention to the fire. The throat of the chimney, in the fire-places altered at the Foundling, has been made rather larger than is directed by Count Rumford ; it being conceived that the smoke of the London coal fires requires a larger passage than that of the wood fires at Munich. Great care has been taken that the throat should be perpendicularly over the fire. The bevilled sides of the chimney are occasionally whitened with pipe-clay or white-wash,

which the persons, who make the fire, keep by them for that purpose. The average expence of the alteration was about fifteen shillings a chimney. —The same caution is requisite in these chimnies as in the Count's kitchens, not to use, or rather waste, too much fuel.

## No. XIII.

*Extract from an account of the house of recovery,  
established by the Board of Health at Manchester.  
By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

IN May, 1796, an house for the prevention of infectious fevers, was opened upon private subscription, at Manchester, by the Board of Health there; and placed under the inspection of a medical committee, consisting of the medical gentlemen of the Infirmary. The following regulations were adopted respecting it.

REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION OF PATIENTS INTO THE HOUSE OF RECOVERY.

1st. That the physicians of the Infirmary shall be authorized to give one or two shillings from the funds of this institution (by a ticket to the secretary of the Board of Health) to the person who shall furnish the earliest information of the appearance of fever in any poor family, within the limits of their respective districts.

2d. That as soon as the secretary has received this ticket, he shall apply, or take care that application be made to some trustee of the Board of Health, living within the district, and who is a subscriber to the Infirmary, for an immediate recommendation of the sick person as an home patient.



3d. That such patients as the physicians shall deem peculiar objects of recommendation, either on account of their extreme poverty, or of the close and crowded state of their habitation, shall be conveyed in a sedan chair (provided with a moveable washing lining) and kept for the sole purpose, and distinguished by proper marks, to the House of Recovery.

4th. That the physicians shall be requested to form the necessary regulations for the domestic government of the families of the home patients, afflicted with fever.

5th. That a reward to the amount of (a) shall be given to the heads of the family, after the cessation of the fever, on condition that they have faithfully observed the rules prescribed for cleanliness, ventilation, and the prevention of infection, amongst their neighbours. This reward shall be doubled in cases of extraordinary danger, and when the attentions have been adequate and successful.

6th. That, after the visitation of fever has ceased in any poor dwelling house, the sum of (a) or a sufficient sum, shall be allowed (to be expended under the direction of an inspector) for white-washing and cleansing the premises, and for the purchase of new bed-clothes, or apparel, in lieu of such as it may be deemed necessary to destroy, to obviate the continuance or propagation of fever.

7th. That an inspector, shall be appointed in

(a) (a) These two blanks have not been filled-up; but the sums have hitherto been left to the discretion of the committee.

each district of the Infirmary, to aid the execution, and to enforce the observance of the foregoing regulations. And that the gentlemen of the Stranger's Friend Society shall be requested to undertake this office.

### INTERNAL REGULATIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF RECOVERY.

1st. Every patient, on admission, shall change his infectious for clean linen ; the face and hands are to be washed clean with lukewarm water, and the lower extremities fomented.

2d. The clothes brought into the house by patients, shall be properly purified and aired.

3d. All linen and bed clothes, immediately on being removed from the bodies of the patients, shall be immersed in cold water before they are carried down stairs.

4th. All discharges from the patients shall be removed from the wards without delay.

5th. The floors of the wards shall be carefully washed twice a week, and near the beds every day.

6th. Quick-lime shall be slaked in large open vessels, in every ward, and renewed whenever it ceases to bubble on the affusion of water. The walls and roofs shall be frequently washed with this mixture.

7th. No relation or acquaintance shall be permitted to visit the wards, without particular orders from one of the physicians.

8th. No strangers shall be admitted into the

wards; and the nurses shall be strictly enjoined not to receive unnecessary visits.

9th. No linen or clothes shall be removed from the House of Recovery, till they have been washed, aired, and freed from infection.

10th. No convalescents shall be discharged from the house, without a consultation of the physicians.

11th. The nurses and servants of the house shall have no direct communication with the Infirmary; but shall receive the medicines in the room already appropriated to messengers from the home patients.

12th. The Committee of the Stranger's Friend Society shall be requested to undertake the office of inspecting the House of Recovery.

13th. A weekly report of the patients, admitted and discharged, shall be published in the Manchester newspapers.

14th. When a patient dies in the wards, the body shall be removed as soon as possible, into a room appropriated to that use; it shall then be wrapped in a pitched cloth; and the friends shall be desired to proceed to the interment as early as is consistent with propriety.

15th. All provisions and attendance, for the patients in this House of Recovery, shall be provided from the funds of this institution, without any communication with the Infirmary.

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The first annual meeting of the trustees was held on the 27th May, 1796, the President, T. B.

Bayley, Esq. in the chair ; when an asylum, capable of containing from 15 to 25 beds for patients, was conceived to be sufficient for the purposes of the institution.

The circumstances of the first patients, removed to the House of Recovery, all tended to prove the truth of the position, that the most contagious and destructive fevers, by which manufacturing and other crowded towns have been afflicted, had proceeded from individual infection ; and that if, upon the appearance of the fever, the poor patient had been removed to a clean well ventilated room, and dismissed after recovery with clothes properly purified, much disease and misery would have been prevented, and many lives saved.

As the statement of the circumstances of the first patients that were admitted into the House of Recovery, may tend to shew the sufferings of the poor, where no house of recovery is prepared for them, I shall state them from the Physician's reports inserted in the minutes of the Board of Health:

“ Mary Parkinson, aged 20, the second daughter of Ann Parkinson, lodging with her mother and sister, at James Rushton's (who rents a garret, No. 50, Great Turner-street), was seized on the 17th instant with a spotted fever, and visited in a day or two after, as a home patient of the Infirmary.

“ She was found almost destitute of covering, lying upon a collection of rags spread upon the floor of a close, dirty, and noisome garret. In this

wretched substitute for a bed, the mother and another grown up daughter (just recovering of fever) likewise slept. In an opposite corner of the room, James Rushton, his wife, and three children slept upon a bed, similar to that above described. Under such circumstances, I was fully convinced, that it would be impracticable to prevent the fever from spreading, unless the infected person could be removed. But, as the House of Recovery was not then opened, the removal of the patient could not be effected. In a day or two, as I expected, the daughter of James Rushton sickened, and became dangerously ill of the fever. As the wife (who was far advanced in her pregnancy) and the rest of the inhabitants of the room, might be supposed to be in hourly danger of infection; I proposed, therefore, (the House of Recovery being now ready) as the most likely method of saving the lives of the two women so dangerously affected, and of preventing the rest from receiving the infection, that the sick persons should be instantly removed into the House of Recovery. With every expression of joy and gratitude, the parents of both the patients accepted the offer, and they were accordingly removed without suffering any injury, or apparent inconvenience by the removal.

“ Mary West, the wife of a soldier belonging to the Manks Fencibles, was infected with fever from attending her husband, who had recovered, and was ordered to join the regiment.—She had been driven out of doors upon the symptoms of fever appearing, and was refused admittance wherever she applied.



In consequence of exposure to cold, and distress of mind, her complaint rapidly increased, and she got a recommendation as in-patient to the Infirmary. But the rules of this charity forbade her admittance. She was, therefore, received into the House of Recovery, as an object peculiarly claimed by the nature of the institution.

“ Jeremiah Bowcock was removed, on the first appearance of fever from a family living at No. 74, Newton-lane ; and, besides himself, consisting of seven men, four women, and three children. On the same floor with, and adjoining to the chamber (at No. 78, Newton-street) in which he and three others slept, a man, his wife, and three children constantly reside. The ground floor is occupied by two men, one woman, and three children ; and the cellars are let for work rooms. The disease was introduced into his house by Bowcock's brother, who had been turned into the streets, when labouring under *typhus*, by the persons with whom he lodged.—Immediately after the removal of this patient, the room in which he had been confined was duly washed and ventilated ; and means were taken to dis-infect the clothes and bedding, by a free exposure of them in the open air.

“ Margaret Billington, wife of a private in the York Fencibles, was removed on the 10th day of her disease, from a small room, at No. 8, Pump-street, which has been for some time the nightly abode of four grown persons, and three children. On her removal, the bedding was exposed to the air, in an open space, for several hours ; the floor

of the apartment was secured; the walls were white-washed: fumigations with nitrous gas were employed according to the practice of his Majesty's Naval Hospitals; and a reward was promised to the heads of the family, provided their endeavours to extinguish contagion were attended with success.

“ John Owen, Robert Williams, and William Williams, from a house in Salford, where six persons lay ill of fever at the same time, in two very small rooms. One patient only remains in that house, who is now recovering.

“ William Lomax, a child from a house in Longworth-street, where a family of five persons had only one bed-room for their accommodation. The eldest daughter was first taken ill; after she recovered, the father, mother, and this boy, were all seized with the fever together. The father died. The mother miscarried, from grief and fatigue, the day after his death. A younger daughter has since been taken ill, and will be admitted as soon as possible.

“ Samuel Gould, from a large family with whom he lodged. His fever is of a very dangerous nature, and it is hoped that, by his removal, the infection of the whole family will be prevented.”

The beneficial effects of the House of Recovery, which has not yet been opened a year and a half, are almost beyond belief. The facts are, however, established by authentic documents.—The number of fever patients (as entered in the physician's book, at the Infirmary) in Portland-street, Silver-street, and the other streets in that pile of buildings, in the

neighbourhood of the House of Recovery, for the two preceding years and eight months, were 1,256, something more than the average of 400 a year:—those in the same district from July, 1796, a period commencing two months after the establishment of the House of Recovery) to July, 1797, (being twelve months) were only twenty-six;—of these, there were, in July, 1796, only five such patients; in August, but one; in September, 1796, none; and in the four last months, from March to July, 1797, only one fever patient.

In the report of the weekly board of the Infirmary at Manchester, notice is taken of the extraordinary effects of the House of Recovery, in diminishing the proportions of the fever patients in the Infirmary. It appears from the physicians books of the Infirmary, that in January, 1796, before the establishment of the House of Recovery) the whole number of the home patients at the Manchester infirmary, was 296, of which 226 were cases of fever; and that, in January, 1797, the number of their home patients was 161; and, of these, only 57 were cases of fever.

From the opening of the House of Recovery, on the 19th of May, 1796, to the 2d of November, 1797, 542 fever patients have been admitted. Of these 465 have been cured and sent home; 48 (and there were some very bad cases) have died; and 29 were, on the 2d instant, remaining in the house. The account, therefore, up to the 2d instant, stands thus:

|                        |   |   |       |
|------------------------|---|---|-------|
| cured and discharged   | - | - | 465   |
| dead                   | - | - | 48    |
| remaining in the house | - | - | 29    |
|                        |   |   | <hr/> |
| total admitted         |   |   | 542   |

But the proportional number of cures in the last half year (a benefit that will probably increase) is greater than that of the preceding period ; because the poor are now induced to apply in the earlier stages of the fever, when medicine can be applied with more effect. The account from the 8th of May, 1797, to the 2d instant, being near six months, is as follows ;

|                      |   |   |       |
|----------------------|---|---|-------|
| cured and discharged | - | - | 141   |
| dead                 | - | - | 8     |
| remain in the house  | - | - | 29    |
|                      |   |   | <hr/> |
| total                |   |   | 178   |

Many of the opponents of the House of Recovery in Manchester,\* are become its active friends ; and that, which was at first an act of philanthropy, in a few individuals, is now supported by the good wishes and contribution of the greater part of the respectable inhabitants at Manchester. Other consequences have attended the extraordinary success of this institution :—viz. first, that the Board of

\* Similar establishments have been successfully made at Chester, Stockport, and some other places. One is forming at Liverpool. For a detail of the principles and rules to be adopted in country towns, to check the progress of disease and infection, the reader is referred to a very excellent pamphlet by the Rev. Sir William Clerke, Bart. Rector of Bury in Lancashire. It is published by Johnson, St. Paul's Churchyard ; and Edwards, Pall-Mall.

Health, does *now* receive fever patients into the House from places beyond the districts for which it was first established ; by which means the environs of the town will be cleared of the epidemic fever ;—secondly, that the Infirmary also receives a variety of patients, which they were obliged to refuse, when the Infirmary and town were oppressed by the enormous croud of fever patients, whose claims seemed to supersede those of persons not afflicted with contagious diseases :—and thirdly, that, in the year 1796, there was a decrease of near 400 in the bills of mortality at Manchester.

### OBSERVATIONS.

A Board of Health and a House of Recovery, upon the plan of that at Manchester, would be useful in all towns ; but particularly where the poor, employed in manufactures, are incapable of receiving proper medical relief, in their own confined habitations ; and where they are peculiarly liable to communicate contagion, not only to their own family, and to those who dwell under the same roof, but to the neighbourhood. A Board of Health,\* to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases among the poor, is peculiarly applicable to

\* The progress of contagious fevers at Manchester, has been so checked by the House of Recovery, that it now receives patients from any part of Manchester and its suburbs, or within two miles of them. I have visited it to-day with much satisfaction. There are now 19 patients in the house, which is as airy, as clean, and as comfortable, as can be wished. 2d Aug. 1798.



a populous town : but it is not exclusively so. It would be very useful in country villages and country neighbourhoods ; to assist and stimulate the overseers in that part of their duty, which relates to the health of the poor ; and to prevent the progress of infectious disorders.—It is peculiarly in the prevention of disease and contagion, that the benefit returns with increase upon the benefactor, and that the merciful receive mercy.

*6th Nov. 1797.*

## No. XIV.

*Extract from an account of three cottagers keeping cows, and renting land in Rutlandshire. By the BISHOP OF DURHAM.*

AMONG the cottagers on Lord Winchilsea's estate in the county of Rutland, which I have very lately visited, I have selected for the Society three examples of the benefit of cottagers renting land. They are as follows :

A day labourer, his wife, and eight small children.

An old man of fourscore, and his wife of nearly the same age.

An old single woman.

The first and second of these families has each two cows, and the old single woman has one cow, with land to keep them on. They have each of them gardens. With this benefit, and that of his labour, the day labourer has bred up ten children, two of which are put out to service ; and he is now maintaining himself, his wife, and his other eight children, without any call for parochial relief. The two old people cannot make any thing of their labour : but yet, with the benefit of their cow and garden, and the exertions which these call forth, and with a little occasional assistance that the old man and his wife receive from their son, and which the other old woman has from her younger neigh-

bours, they all appear to enjoy much more comfort than old age in general possesses. They satisfied me that, but for the cow and the garden, they could not have subsisted without parochial relief.

## OBSERVATIONS.

I have selected these three examples, from many similar ones on the same estate, in proof of the utility of the measures, which Lord Winchilsea has adopted for the benefit of his cottagers. There are two circumstances which I learnt upon enquiry, and which I think will show that the benefit I have stated, was not local or partial, but diffused over his estate ; one, that the rate collected for the relief of the poor, in his three parishes, is not so much, on an average, as an annual six-pence in the pound ; the other, that his cottagers' rents (for their cottages and little closes of ground) are, of all his rents, the earliest and best paid : and that there has been no arrear of them for several years.

There was an air of content and gratitude, marked in the countenances, and expressed in the language of all the cottagers, that convinced me that what had been done for them by their landlord, had not only made them more happy, and improved their means of subsistence, but that it had produced very beneficial effects on the heart and the morals. The advantages, however, are not confined to the poor man and his family ; they extend to the parish, and prevent its being burthened with a heavy poor's-rate ; and to the community at large,

on account of the children of the lower classes of the people being educated in habits of industry, and good order ; and having, at an early age, a spirit and energy infused into them by the examples of their patients ; which teach them that their best and surest dependence, in future life, will be on their own exertions and good conduct for the maintenance and welfare of themselves and their families.

3d Nov. 1797.

## No. XV.

*Extract from an account of the expence and benefit of frequently white-washing the rooms of a poorhouse.*

*By WM. EMM, Esq. Secretary to the BISHOP OF DURHAM.*

THE poorhouse at Bishop Auckland has been, during the preceding summer, white-washed every six weeks. The method of preparing the lime, (which is rock or stone lime from Coxhoe, about ten miles from Auckland, and costs, including carriage, four-pence a bushel) is as follows:—a large tub is procured to slake it in, and this is filled with lime nearly to the top, cold water being poured upon it by degrees, and it being stirred with a stick that is broad at one end, until the tub is filled with lime: when the lime and water are well incorporated, and of the consistence of mud, it is to be taken out of the tub with a wooden scoop, and strained through a hair or fine wire sieve into another vessel, where it settles to the bottom in a solid mass of white-wash. There will be some water at the top, not imbibed by the lime; this should be skimmed off. It is then to be mixed with cold water, till it is of the consistence of thin paint, being stirred occasionally while it is using. In this state it is laid on with a whitening brush by the man and his wite who have the care of the house.

The quantity used for whitewashing the fifteen rooms at Auckland poorhouse, is half a bushel;



which costs two-pence ; the expence of the four white-washings being, in the whole, not quite EIGHT-PENCE A YEAR. This trifling expenditure has produced a very great benefit to the poor in the workhouse, to those who visit it, and indeed to the parish in general, that is not easily to be calculated,—I have the pleasure of being able to say, that there is neither disease nor vermin in our poorhouse at present ; but that the inhabitants are very comfortable and happy.

### OBSERVATIONS.

It would be well for the inhabitants of cottages, as well as poorhouses, if the custom of very frequently white-washing them were prevalent throughout the kingdom. Clean white washed walls not only contribute to prevent the existence of vermin, but induce habits of cleanliness in those who reside within them. It was observed by the late Mr. Howard, in his work on Lazarettos, that in the cottages on his estate in Bedfordshire, which had been made comfortable, “ *and white washed both within and without*, the very same families, “ which were before slovenly and dirty, had upon “ this change of habitation, become neat in their “ persons, their houses, and their gardens.”

When it is generally known that the four white-washings of Auckland poorhouse have produced the most beneficial effects, and have cost only a little trouble, and *the sum of eight-pence a year*, I flatter myself that there will be very few poorhouses in

England,\* which will not be frequently white-washed.—The price and quality of lime is very different in different parts of the kingdom. In

\* The penitentiary house in Cold-Bath Fields was white-washed in 1796. The charge for the work was fairly made, according to the ordinary course of trade, and amounted to *one hundred and one pounds*. In 1797 it was whitewashed again; the materials were bought, and a prisoner in the house employed in the work; which, as far as I am a judge, was extremely well done: the expence of the materials was *1l. 7s. 6d.*; the donation to the man for his trouble *2l. 12s. 6d.*; in all **FOUR POUNDS**—In the Foundling hospital, I have tried the experiment of white-washing some of the rooms. The greater kitchen is 34 feet by 21, and 12 high; and the lesser kitchen, 21 feet by 17; both of them arched, and containing a great deal of extra work: the materials, for white-washing both of them twice, cost *3s.* Of the girls' dining room over it, being 102 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 12 feet high; the expence of the materials, for white-washing the ceiling and cornice, and colouring of a straw colour that part of the sides of the room which was stucco, was *4s. 10d.*; the workmanship *5s.* The two wards above this floor are, one of them 129 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 12 feet high, and the other 111 feet long by 18 wide, and 12 feet high; all plain wall, without dado or surbase; the expence of white-washing the ceilings and cornice of both of these, and colouring the sides of the rooms, was for the materials *16s.*; for the workmanship *24s.* In both instances size was used; which is included in the account, and was necessary, because the walls were not new plastered walls, but had been so white-washed or coloured before—When it is known at how small a price the benefit of white-washing may be attained in *poorhouses*, and other public buildings, I trust *the conductors of them will take care that they do not want those means of preventing vermin, filth, and infection among them.*—No one is more desirous of giving tradesmen their fair and liberal profits than I am; but, where the excessive amount of the customary charge prevents a great advantage being received by the great mass of our fellow-subjects, I cannot estimate the extra profits of a few against the welfare of the many.—It may deserve inquiry whether in poorhouses and other public buildings, contracts might not be annually made, for white-washing the whole at a *very moderate price*, once or twice every summer. B. 15th Feb. 1798.

London, and in some other places, it is as high as a shilling a bushel, and the lime chiefly in use is chalk lime, which does not answer so well as stone lime. The difficulty and expence, however, of obtaining the best stone lime, for this purpose, in any part of the kingdom, must be too inconsiderable to prevent its general use, if most approved of. In the neighbourhood of Manchester, a horse load of lime, which is sufficient to white wash about a dozen cottages, costs fourteen pence; which for each cottage would be two pence halfpenny a year, supposing them regularly white-washed in spring and autumn. In some places the expence may be increased, perhaps as high as a shilling a cottage; but, as a general average for each cottage, two-pence or three pence a year, expended by the landlord or the parish, in supplying the cottager with the materials for white-washing his cottage, would wonderfully contribute to the cleanliness and health of the poor throughout the kingdom.

If the lime-wash is prepared with lime already slaked, it may, in many instances, require size to be mixed with it: but if the *quick lime* is used, and in the metropolis, and in most towns, it may be obtained at all times in the smallest quantities, it will not be necessary to mix size with it: and the good effects of the white-washing in destroying vermin and removing infection will be much increased. The sooner, indeed, the lime is used after it is slaked, the better; especially if there is any apprehension of infection in the house. In that case, it is proper that the walls should be frequently

washed with quick lime, fresh slaked in water, and put on while it continues bubbling and hot, as is the practice of the House of Recovery at Manchester.

I suppose the master of the poorhouse to do the work himself. If a workman is employed to put it on, the additional expence would be about 6*d.* a room, which for the fifteen rooms would be 7*s.* 6*d.* a year.—If indeed the overseer's brother or nephew, is to be employed in the *job* by the yard, the increase of expence would be very considerable ; and might, instead of eight-pence a year, amount to an annual expenditure of several pounds, and the cost prove almost equal to the benefit of the work being done.

31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1797.

## No. XVI.

*Extract from an account of the mode of supplying a country parish with a midwife. By the Rev. Mr. DOLLING, late Vicar of Aldenham, Herts.*

FIFTEEN years ago, there being then no midwife living in the parish of Aldenham, I selected a poor widow, who had three children supported by the parish, and sent her up for instruction, to the Lying-in Hospital in Store-street, near Tottenham Court Road: where Dr. Osborn permitted her to continue for three months, at a very small expence. Though without any preparatory education, she returned so well instructed, as to exercise her calling in the parish ever since, without a single accident, or ever having occasion to call in medical assistance.\* She has been enabled thereby to support herself and her children comfortably: and is now living, and in the enjoyment of the confidence due to her skill. She attends all the day labourers' wives, at the stipulated sum of half-a-crown.

\* In the Manchester Infirmary, upon the suggestion of Mr. Simmons, a surgeon of eminence there, a plan, for the relief of poor lying-in women, has been adopted, which may deserve the attention of other medical hospitals.—Upon notice of any difficult case of delivery, the infirmary surgeon of the district, or in his absence the one next in rotation, immediately attends gratis, and assists the poor woman at home; and the Infirmary provides medicines if wanted. The cases that have occurred have been very few, but they were cases of difficulty, and most of them would have been of extreme danger without such medical aid. 2d. Aug. 1798.



The expence of her instruction and setting up, was collected in the parish by subscription ; part of which paid for her board in the hospital ; and the rest of the money was applied for her journey and incidental expences — She has been the cause of a considerable saving in the medical bills of the parish, besides being a very great comfort \* and relief to the poor.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The expence and trouble of the above was trifling ; its benefit, both to the poor and to the parish, considerable ; whenever, therefore, a parish is distant from medical aid, and unprovided with a midwife of its own, the above may be recommended to its consideration.

*6th Aug. 1797.*

\* It seems much better for the wives of the poor that they should be attended at home, and receive a little pecuniary or other assistance, than that they should be moved into a lying-in hospital : in which case the woman is usually absent from home for a month, her family neglected during her absence, some parochial charge incurred, and she returns home with habits of life not suitable to her situation. If she is attended at home she is generally capable of managing and assisting in her family in a very few days, and the relief is given her at about a fifth part of the expence that would have attended her lying-in at an hospital. *2d Aug. 1798.*

## No. XVII!

*Extract from an account of cottagers renting land. By  
the EARL of WINCHILSEA.*

UPON my estate in the county of Rutland, there are from seventy to eighty labourers, who keep from one to four cows each. I have already heard that they are hard-working industrious men. They manage their land well, and pay their rent very regularly. From what I have seen of them I am more and more confirmed in the opinion I have long held, that nothing is so beneficial both to them and to the land owners, as their having land to be occupied either for the keeping of cows, or as gardens, according to circumstances.

By means of these advantages the labourers and their families live better, and are consequently more fit to endure labour; they are more contented, and more attached to their situation, and acquire a sort of independence, which makes them set a higher value upon their character. In the neighbourhood in which I live, men so circumstanced are almost always considered as the most to be depended upon and trusted; the possessing of a little property certainly gives a spur to industry; as a proof of this, it has almost always happened to me, that when a labourer has obtained a cow, and land sufficient to maintain her, the first thing he has thought of has been, how he could save money enough to buy

another ; and I have almost always had applications for more land from those people so circumstanced. There are several labourers in my neighbourhood, who have got on in that manner, till they now keep two, three, and some four cows, and yet are amongst the hardest working men in the country, and the best labourers.

With regard to the profit they make of a cow, those who manage well might, as the prices of the market were two or three years ago, have cleared twenty-pence a week,\* or 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per ann. by

\* I add a note extracted, with permission, from a paper by Mr. Kent.—“ The profit of a cow, to a family of the description in question, is stated by Lord Winchilsea, at only 1*s.* 8*d.* a week ;—but the value of a cow, supposing her to give only six quarts of milk a day, (which must be allowed to be a low average, if the cow be properly kept) will be worth, at a penny a quart, 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, or 9*l.* 2*s.* a year ; setting the profit of the calf against the loss sustained while the cow is dry. Three acres of land, of the quality of 30*s.* an acre, will in general keep a cow in good condition the whole year, by admitting about an acre to be parted off, for mowing in the summer, to furnish a little hay for the winter : to this rent must be added, for tithes and parochial rates, perhaps 14*s.* more, making the whole charge 4*l.* 4*s.* which is not half the value of the produce ; and if a further allowance be made for the labour attending the object, there will still be left at least 30 per cent. profit ; and in every other article of a cottager’s consumption, he is obliged to purchase at 30 per cent. loss. But, when it is considered that milk is the natural food for children, that it is of a nutritious quality, and that, where there is a cow, a pig is generally an appendant to her, the advantage is inestimable.” Mr. Kent has been for many years so impressed with the propriety and good policy of this plan, that he has never failed giving it all the encouragement he possibly could ; and flatters himself, that, in the different estates which he has had the regulation of, with the assistance of his partners, Messrs. Claridge and Pearce, they have been instrumental in establishing a great deal of real comfort ; but no where upon so extensive a scale, as in the course of

each cow ; supposing the rent of the land, levies, expences of hay-making, &c. to cost them 4*l.* ex-

the last year, upon the great property of the Earl of Egremont in Yorkshire. His lordship, who is considered not only as one of the most liberal encouragers of all rational experiments in agriculture, but a steady friend to the working farmer and industrious labourer, gave them, on this occasion, *carte blanche* ; and their feelings were highly gratified, in being able to accommodate a considerable number of men, of the description in question, with the means of supporting their families in a much more comfortable manner, than they were before enabled to do. This seems to be the true and best exercise of power : and when it is further considered, that much good may often be done, merely by parting off a few acres from a large farm, or by breaking up one farm out of twenty, which may frequently be done, without injury to any person, it is rather a matter of surprise, that this thing is not oftener done than it is. But though the before mentioned plan is confessedly good, it is very often defeated for want of capital in the cottager, which has induced him to recommend another scheme for keeping cows for them, in his opinion, preferable to the former, as it may have a more general tendency to improvement, and does not require any capital, nor is attended with any risk. The hint is taken from the western dairies. In most parts of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, there are few farmers but what let off a dairy, upon the following plan. The farmer finds, keeps, and renews, a certain number of cows to a subtenant, at a fixed price, generally from five to six pounds a cow yearly, allowing the calf into the bargain. The management of the dairy is done by the sub-tenant.—Why should not every farmer, in a less degree, accommodate such of his labourers as have a family of children in the same way ? There is no farmer, but has some land better adapted for cows than for any other stock ; there is no farmer, but keeps two or three cows for his own family.—Why should he not keep one or two in addition, for his labourers ? The wife or daughter of the labourer would milk them, without being attended with any inconvenience. The farmer would run no risk, as the rent of the cow might be stopped out of the labourer's *weekly pay*. No loss could be sustained, as he could not make a better return from any other stock than this. The power of doing good in this way, without losing any thing by it, is offered to every farmer ; and the great objection to cottagers keeping cows, namely, that of their injuring the farmer's fences by running

clusive of house-rent. This clear profit, over and above rent, &c. may now be set at two shillings a week, or 5*l.* a year at least; so as to make the whole 9*l.* a year, on a supposition that all the produce is sold. Whether, however, this calculation is too low, or how it is, I cannot say; but certainly those who have a cow, appear to be (in comparison with those who have none) much more than two shillings per week richer. It may probably be owing to the superior industry of those families.—I must observe, that they keep sheep during the winter upon their cow pasture, at the rate of two, and in some cases three, at 2*s.* 6*d.* each, for each cow pasture. This is included in the above estimate of profit. The skim milk is also valued: Some of them, where the land is not good, do not pay so much. I put down 4*l.* supposing the land\* tolerably good; and it is certainly

in the lanes, is, by this mode of letting, done away. As to the allowance that should be made, I would purpose, that it should be two shillings a week, the year round, besides the farmer's retaining the calf. This would certainly be better for a poor man, than even renting land; for as I have observed before, no money would be requisite in the first instance.—The milk of the cow would be more certain, by her being more regularly kept, and having greater scope and change of food; and no time in mowing and making hay for her, would be lost by the labourer. The public is indebted to Mr. Kent for a valuable work, entitled "*Hints to Gentlemen of landed Property*;" in which, above twenty years ago, he pointed out the disadvantages to which cottagers are subject in the purchase of all the necessary articles of life, the want of proper habitations for them, and the expediency, not to say necessity, of gentlemen of fortune paying more attention to the situation of the labourers, who work on their estates.—See p. 228 of Mr. Kent's book to the end. B. 17*th* April, 1798.

\* The quantity of land which is let for the support of a



more advantageous to them to occupy good land at a high rent, than poor land at a low one. They all agree, that two cows are more than twice as profitable as one; particularly where the suckling of calves is the system pursued. The generality of the people near me suckle calves; some make butter, and a few make cheese; some buy the supernumerary lambs of the farmers, and rear them by hand; and, where they have more than one or two cow-gaits, stock with sheep at the rate, in summer, of three for a cow-gait. Those who have families, and only one cow, generally make butter for the sake of having skim milk for their children, which is an article rarely to be obtained by the poor. When a labourer has the offer of a cow-gait, and land for winter provision, and has

cow in this county, varies much according to the goodness of the land. In one parish, the cow pasture, which contains 114 acres, feeds during the summer 100 cows; in another it contains 42 acres, and feeds 17 cows; in another 35 acres, and feeds 25 cows. The price varies much: but, in general, the cottager can afford to pay as much as the farmer can, or, in my opinion, ought. In another parish there is no cow pasture; but the cottagers have inclosed land, some having fields to themselves, others uniting, and grazing, and manuring two fields alternately; the rents in all these cases varying according to the quality of the land, the quantity assigned to them, and the time when they were first let. The cottagers, whose cows have the run of a cow pasture, have small fields, for hay; these also vary much in quantity and quality, and consequently in price. Where the quantity of land is more than is requisite for their cow, or cows, they keep sheep of their own, or let the pasturage to a butcher. Where there is no meadow land, which is the case in one parish near me, they have fields of about six acres of ploughing ground, where they raise winter provision for the cow.—The rent of the new built cottages is from 20 to 30 shillings for the house, and 5s. for the garden, which is about a rood of land, and frequently not so much.

not money enough to purchase a cow, he generally applies to his employer, who will, in all probability, advance him some money; and the inhabitants of the parish, if the man has a good character, frequently subscribe to set him up, from charitable motives, and from a persuasion that by this means his family will never want relief from the parish: and this is so much the case, that when a labourer dies, and his son takes his land and stock, he in some cases maintains the widow.\* I know of seve-

\* In the parish of Burley, and the two adjoining parishes of Hambledon and Eggleton, where there are a great number of labourers who keep cows, the rate collected for the relief of the poor last year did not on an average amount to 6*d.* in the pound. No rents are better or more regularly paid on my estate, than those for the cottagers' land. There has not been, for several years back, any arrear of them.—In these parishes there are several labourers with very large families, and several aged persons past work, who must have had relief from the parish if they had not cows: they do not receive any parochial aid; the sums raised for the relief of the poor, in those parishes, being, for those who, from various circumstances, are not possessed of cows. The lowness of the rates, in these instances, may therefore be fairly imputed to the custom of letting land to labourers.—With regard to the amount of the poor's rate, the best way to judge of the management of the poor, is to ascertain the number of inhabitants, and the annual sum raised for the poor: this will shew what proportion of these persons can maintain themselves, and what are paupers. The following is an account of the number of inhabitants, and of the sums raised for the poor, and also of the amount of the poor's rate per pound, in these three parishes, from Easter, 1796 to Easter, 1797.

|           | Number of<br>inhabitants. | Sums raised<br>for the poor. | Amount in<br>the pound.  |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Burley    | - 225                     | 38 12 1                      | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d</i> |
| Eggleton  | - 144                     | 15 11 5                      | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ <i>d</i> |
| Hambledon | 335                       | 74 16 6                      | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>d</i> |
|           | <hr/> 704                 | <hr/> 129 0 0                |                          |

ral instances of labourers' widows, now past work, who are maintained by their sons, but could not otherwise have lived without parish relief.

When a poor man's cow dies, it is certainly a great distress ; and, sometimes, the owner is obliged to ask assistance to replace her. Somehow or other, they always contrive to get one ; as I scarcely ever knew a cow gait given up for want of ability to obtain a cow, except in the case of old and infirm women, who are left without children : for they cannot, without some assistance, live upon the profits of a cow, nor can they manage it properly. Should a case of this sort occur, the parish officers would act very unwisely in refusing assistance, as a very trifling allowance, together with the cow, would enable a woman to live ; whereas, by refusing any assistance, they oblige the woman to part with her cow, and then she must have her whole subsistence from them.

### OBSERVATIONS.

When a labourer is possessed of cattle, his children are taught early in life the necessity of taking care of them, and acquire some knowledge of their treatment ; and, if he has a garden, they learn to dig and weed ; and their time is employed in useful industry, by which means they are more likely to acquire honest and industrious habits, than those, who are bred up in the poverty and laziness, which we too often see ; for I believe it is a certain fact that extreme poverty begets idleness.

In the neighbourhood of large towns, and in countries where there is hardly any thing but arable land, the value of grass land is too great, to allow of labourers renting it with advantage; a garden,\* however, may be allotted to them in almost every situation, and will be found of infinite use to them. In countries, where it has never been the custom for labourers to keep cows, it may be difficult to introduce it; but where no gardens have been annexed to the cottages, it is sufficient to give the ground, and the labourer is sure to know what to do with it, and will reap an immediate benefit from it. Of this I have had experience in several places, particularly in two parishes near Newport Pagnell, Bucks, where there never had been any gardens annexed to the labourers' houses, and where, upon land being allotted to them, they all, without a single exception, have cultivated their gardens extremely well, and profess receiving the greatest benefit from them.

Those very small spots of a few square yards, which we sometimes see near cottages, I can hardly call gardens; I think there should be as

\* As land cultivated as a garden will produce a greater quantity of food for man than in any other way, and as four-fifths of the labour bestowed upon their gardens will be done by the labourers at extra hours, and when they and their children would otherwise be unemployed, it may not be too much to say, that 100,000 acres, allotted to cottagers as garden ground, will give a produce equal to what 130,000 acres cultivated in the ordinary way would give; and that, without occupying more of the time they would otherwise give to the farmers who employ them, than the cultivation of 20,000 acres would require.



much as will produce all the garden stuff that the family consumes, and enough for a pig with the addition of a little meal. I think they ought to pay the same rent that a farmer would pay for the land, and no more. I am persuaded that it frequently happens, that a labourer lives in a house at twenty or thirty shillings a year rent, which he is unable to pay, to which, if a garden of a rood was added, for which he would have to pay five or ten shillings a year more, that he would be enabled, by the profit he would derive from the garden, to pay the rent of the house, &c. with great advantage to himself.

Whoever travels through the midland counties, and will take the trouble of enquiring, will generally receive for answer, that formerly there were a great many cottagers who kept cows, but that the land is now thrown to the farmers; and if he inquires still further, he will find, that, in those parishes, the poor's-rate\* have increased in an amazing degree, more than according to the average

\* In the Dillorn inclosure act, passed in 1781, there is a clause for securing to cottagers, in fee-simple, houses built by them upon the waste, with the gardens belonging to them; and also for securing to them an estate for one, two, or three lives, in the inclosures previously made by them on the waste, not exceeding two acres. This clause was suggested by a principal proprietor, Mr. Holliday of Lincoln's-Inn, from whom I learn that the custom of joisting the cottager's cow is prevalent in that parish; and the rent usually made up out of the extra wages during harvest. Mr. Holliday informs me that, during the sixteen years that have passed since the inclosure, there has been hardly any instance of a cottager, who kept a cow, standing in need of, or seeking relief from the parish. B, 19th Feb. 1798.



rise throughout England. It is to be hoped, that as the quantity of land required for gardens is very small, it will not excite the jealousy of the farmers.

*1st Dec. 1797.*

## No. XVIII.

*Extract from an account of a village soup shop, at Iver, in the county of Bucks. By Lady BERNARD.*

IN October, 1796, a village soup shop was set up at Iver, in the county of Buckingham. The most proper person that occurred for the purpose, was the wife of Richard Learner, an industrious man, who had lost a leg by an accident in the course of his labour; and who, notwithstanding that disadvantage, had brought up a large family decently and creditably, without parochial relief.—She was an industrious and notable woman, and had lived in a family as a kitchen maid. She attended, by desire, several times to see the soup made, which she afterwards took home for the use of her own family. She was then informed, that if she could make the same kind of soup twice a week during the winter, it would be a benefit to her poor neighbours, and a considerable advantage to herself: that she should be furnished with the receipt, and the necessary utensils and materials to set up her shop: which consisted of a tin pot that contained four gallons, and a bushel of split pease; and that we would purchase of her tickets, or give orders for soup, for her poor neighbours, at three-pence a quart;\*

\* The price, at which this soup is sold, is above what it might, even with profit, be made and sold for: but it was

besides recommending to others to purchase of her similar tickets for other poor persons, whom they wished to be of use to.

The advantages which this proposal held out to her, were these ; that the soup which she sold at three-pence a quart, she could make for half that money : that, therefore, if she could get by the tickets, and by chance customers, a sale of only 8 gallons a week (which was about her average) her profit, with very little interruption to her other work, would be not much less than four shillings a week ; besides the comfort, of which she seemed fully to feel the benefit, but which it was much easier for her to enjoy than describe, of being in the midst of a cook shop.

What happened in the present case, is what will hardly ever fail to happen in similar cases ; there were few poor families in the parish, but what, placed on some list or other, received a good meal to take home twice or oftener each week, to their houses. The following is a copy of the memorandum made for the subscribers.

“ The pease soup to be continued twice a week,  
“ from 12 November to 12 May. Every subscriber  
“ of one shilling per week may recommend four

necessary in this instance, and in that at Langley, to interest the person employed, in the success ; which might not have been the case, if the price had been lower.—Even at the present price it has the advantage of being economical, as well as palatable and nutritious ; and the advantage received by the person employed to make the soup is not only a charity to her, but the probable means of stimulating her neighbours to attempt to make it for themselves. B. 12th Feb. 1798.

“ persons or families, who shall each be intitled to  
 “ a quart of soup a week, and so in proportion  
 “ whether more or less ; or may direct the distri-  
 “ bution of the like quantity of four quarts, as they  
 “ shall think fit.”—“ N. B. The soup may be  
 “ purchased or ordered for any poor family at three  
 “ pence a quart,\* or three-half-pence a pint.”

The misfortune of common alms is too frequently the increase of vice and beggary. In the

\* Where the owner of a country house, with a large garden, thinks proper to order this soup to be made for the poor in winter during his absence, the expence of it is much less than would be imagined. In the north of England, where it has been occasionally made for the poor during the late scarcity, I have taken pains to ascertain the expence very correctly. In the month of February, 1797, there were 16 gallons of this soup made for the poor, four times a week (256 gallons in the month) and 70 families regularly partook of it. The expence of it (and I have reason to confide in my correctness) was as follows :

|                              |   | s. | d.  |
|------------------------------|---|----|-----|
| Four bushels of barley flour | - | 12 | 0   |
| Two bushels of pease         | - | 13 | 0   |
| One stone of salt            | - | 2  | 3   |
| One pound of pepper          | - | 2  | 4   |
| <hr/>                        |   |    |     |
|                              |   | £1 | 9 6 |

Besides which, there were used 3 bushels of potatoes, one bushel and a half of onions, and some other vegetables, all out of the garden, which if purchased would have cost £1. 5s. 6d.; but these, as unsaleable articles in a gentleman's garden, I think I may put out of the question, as well as fuel and attendance, which made part of the care and airing of the house. There will remain then £1. 9s. 6d. the whole expence out of pocket, for providing 70 families, four days in the week, with soup, gratis, for one month, to the amount of 256 gallons : being, as the reader will find upon calculation, not quite *three halfpence a gallon*.—The total amount of quantity was more, in February, 1797, than in any other month : but the proportionate expence, in the other months, was nearly the same. B. 8th Jan. 1798.

present instance, every thing that was given went substantially to the support and maintenance of the persons for whom it was intended ; and, besides this, one deserving woman received a very comfortable addition to her means of subsistence. The receipt was as follows ; being that originally prepared for the cook shop, lately set up in the colonnade on the Foundling estate, but now moved to Fulwood's Rents, Gray's Inn.—“ Take two gallons  
 “ and a half of water : a quart of split pease, previously soaked in cold water for twenty-four  
 “ hours ; two pound of potatoes, that had been  
 “ well boiled the day before, skinned, and mashed ;  
 “ herbs, salt, pepper, and two onions ; and boil  
 “ them very gently together for five hours, covering  
 “ it closely up, and allowing as little evaporation  
 “ or steam from it as may be. Then set it by to  
 “ cool. It will produce rather better than two  
 “ gallons of soup ; and, if properly made, there  
 “ will be no sediment, but the whole will be  
 “ blended and mixed together, when it is warmed  
 “ for use.”

### OBSERVATIONS.

What is here stated may be effected with very little trouble and expense in any village in England : and nothing appears so likely to shew the poor their true comfort and interest, in the use of the food which Providence has bestowed on them, as the



introduction of these soup shops\* in every part of the kingdom.

\* One of the benefits attending the introduction of these soup shops will be, I trust, the gradual prevalence of a better system of diet among the poor. Nothing is more comfortable, or wasteful, than the present mode of sending a lad out to his work, with a great hunch of white bread; part of which affords him an unsatisfactory and bad dinner, and the rest is thrown away. As it is very essential that the poor should be induced to adopt a better system of diet, than what they have at present, I shall briefly state the mode in which I conceive it may be introduced among them.—As a general principle upon this, and almost every similar subject, I have to observe, that, for our rule of conduct, we need only recur to ourselves, and impartially and attentively consult our own feelings.—Let us place ourselves in their situation, and consider, whether we should give much value to any favours, bestowed with circumstances of *humiliation, inattention, or compulsion*: and whether the smallest service is not acceptable, when conferred with that kindness, which allows for the effect of prejudice, and leaves the freedom of choice.—In the first place, proceeding on that principle, I hold that no one should offer to the poor any thing prepared by these new receipts, until they have had it served at their own tables, *have tried it themselves*, and are satisfied it is properly made. The poor will then have it with a double recommendation; its being really good, and its having been used at the donor's table. It seldom happens that this, or any other cookery, succeeds *entirely* at first; and, if it is left merely to servants (who have pretty strong prejudices against novelties, particularly in food) there is very little chance of their succeeding at all. 2dly,—It should, at first, be given them in *addition* to, and not in lieu of, what they prefer: when they are accustomed to it, they will soon find where the saving may be best made.—For example, in a workhouse or in any public building, it should be given on the day of one of their least favourite dinners: and not be instead of one of the meat days.—And 3dly, it should *not* be *compulsory*; but an option allowed to them, and clearly understood; so that they may feel that it is the act of a kind friend, and not of a capricious master.—If these cautions are observed, I am satisfied that no difficulty will attend the introduction of any palatable and wholesome system of diet (however cheap) into any poorhouse or public building;—or among any poor families, if it is as a

The same soup shop is now opened again at Iver, for the six winter months, on the same plan. A similar one is also set up at Langley, the adjoining parish. The only caution which I need offer on the subject, is that some attention should be occasionally paid to the person, who makes the soup ; for tho' with a little care it is very good, yet if neglected, if it is not boiled *very gently*, and *long enough*, or if the materials are *not good*, it will scarce be worth having. While the person employed understands that the continuance in her appointment depends on her giving satisfaction, she will be desirous, and pretty certain, of doing well.

2d Nov. 1797.

subject of donation, or of sale at prime cost. The engaging of the poor to take the benefit of a similar system in their own cottages, must be a work of time ; and should be the result of their own experience and conviction, rather than of the suggestion and recommendation of others. B. 9th April, 1798.

## No. XLX.

*Extract from an account of a chimney sweeper's boy, with observations and a proposal for the relief of chimney sweepers. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

**I**N December, 1791, Charles Richmond, a little boy, the apprentice of a chimney sweeper in High-street, Mary-le-bone, was convicted, at the Old Baily, of a felony in the adjoining house of the Reverend Mr. Buckley.—The circumstances were as follows:

On the preceding Sunday he had run away from his master. He was brought home on Tuesday, and (his master and mistress having occasion to go out) was left locked up in the house by himself. On their return that evening the doors and windows were all fast, but the boy had escaped. On Thursday, the master and mistress (on their returning home that day to dinner and unlocking the door of the house) perceived the boy in the room, with a bundle of women's clothes, which he said "he had found in a cockloft, and had brought home for his mistress." Some circumstances leading to detection, the boy was apprehended, and tried at the Old Baily; upon his trial it appeared, that he had climbed up his master's chimney, and down Mr. Buckley's, where he had stolen the clothes. The boy's account was that "he took the clothes to prevent his being beat; that, when he was un-

“ employed, he was sent to beg in the streets ; and  
“ that, on one Sunday, he had begged eight shil-  
“ lings, which his master took from him ; another  
“ time he brought home a new pair of shoes, that  
“ some charitable person had given him ; they  
“ were taken off his feet, and pawned for a few  
“ pence.” The boy was convicted ; but he was  
thought more an object of mercy than of justice,  
and, on the application of Mr. Sheriff Anderson,  
was taken under the protection of the Philanthropic  
Society.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The first subject for consideration is, whether, in this case, and in many others that have occurred, the crime is to be imputed to the natural depravity of the boy, or to his peculiar and unfortunate situation ; and whether there is not much more to pity and relieve, than to condemn and punish, in the misconduct of children reduced to thievery and beggary, to obtain food, or to preserve them from the cruelty of a severe and necessitous master.—Much, however, is to be said in excuse for that master.—*It is his poverty and not his will*:— he has endured the same sufferings : and, at the termination of his apprenticeship, has been turned out on the wide world, unprotected and unpitied, without any friend, without any education, and almost without the means of existence.—At the age of sixteen, a period of some additional enjoyment to the generality of mankind, he feels that the increase of

stature has unfitted him for the only thing he has been taught: if he then endeavours to become a journeyman chimney sweeper (and there are many candidates for one vacancy) his wages, were he to succeed in obtaining a service, are from £3. to £6. a year; and, on that miserable pittance, if he should attain the age of twenty-one years without having done any thing to incur the penalty of the law, and should *rise* (as it is called) in the world, and become a master chimney sweeper, he then finds that in London, there are many more persons in the trade, than can obtain employment.

The truth is, that, even if the act of the 28th of George the 3d, for regulating chimney sweepers, was really observed, and master chimney sweepers were not to have above six apprentices at the same time, still there would be a great many more boys bred up to the business, than there would ever be employment for in life. I have good authority for saying, that there is not a maintenance in the trade for one in seven of the boys, who are thrown upon the world at the age of sixteen years, having survived the hardships of their situation. The consequence is, that the greater part of these boys are driven to a profligate and vicious course of life by the want of education and protection:—that, of about two hundred master chimney sweepers in London, there are not above twenty who can make a decent livelihood by it:—and that, in most instances, the master is only a lodger: having one room for himself, his wife, and children; and another, generally a cellar without a fire-place, for



his soot and his apprentices ; without any means of providing for their comfort, health, or cleanliness ; and without any other bed for them, than the soot-bags, which they have been using in the course of their day's work.

I have these facts from a very intelligent and valuable man, Mr. David Porter, a master chimney sweeper in Welbeck-street.—An extraordinary energy of mind and body, and the protection of Providence, for which he feels a deep and religious gratitude, have preserved him through many hardships and dangers, to be the instrument, as I trust, of much good to these unfortunate creatures. Having undergone the sufferings common to a chimney sweeper's boy, he has described them with a warmth and feeling, that do honour to his heart. His work is entitled "Considerations on the present state of chimney sweepers." With a liberality, not common to authors, he has printed this, and another pamphlet on this subject, to give away ; and a great deal of what I have inserted in this paper, is borrowed from Mr Porter's valuable work.

From the age of eighteen Mr. Porter has lost very few opportunities of improving either his mind or fortune.\* He has shewn a very favourable spe-

\* Upon my asking Mr. Porter how he had succeeded in his business, to accumulate so large a fortune ; he answered "BY NEVER HAVING AN IDLE HOUR OR AN IDLE GUINEA :—He explained himself ; that the first year he began business in London, finding no employment in the summer, he went into Lincolnshire, where he was known, and worked at harvest work ; and brought home, at the end of harvest something handsome :—that when he advanced a little further in life, and had some money before-hand, he had always succeeded in employing that money to very great

cimen of his literary abilities; in what he has written on the subject ; and he has brought up and maintained his family, and has improved his fortune, with credit and character. His boys are kindly treated and well kept ; and (tho they make the usual sooty appearance on week days) are cleaned and made neat on Saturday night, or early on Sunday morning ; and regularly attend divine service at church on Sunday. He does not permit his boys to be employed, or sent out, on any common work on the Lord's day. I lately made him an unexpected visit in order to see them at their Sunday dinner : he had just refused to send two of them to the house of a nobleman, one of his best customers, to do something to the kitchen chimney. I had very great pleasure in seeing his journeymen and boys sitting down to a good meal of boiled mutton and rice pudding, served up with every circumstance of cleanliness and comfort. Their behaviour was decent, orderly, and chearful. In proof of the good effects of his attention to them, I have to add that, in thirty-two years, he has lost only two apprentices by death ; and, as to the dreadful disease, called the chimney sweeper's cancer, a disorder so common and so fatal to the *climbing boys* (and which appears to be caused by the acrimonious quality of soot, and by an obstructed perspira-

advantage ; and between this and his own business, he had been very fully occupied : —that he calculated that he had made by his business, for many years, £500. a year ; and nearly as much (while he continued it) by dealing in soot.  
17th March, 1798..

tion, in consequence of the children being too seldom washed and cleaned of the soot, and too thinly clad to resist the cold) his apprentices have never had any symptoms of it.

This, however, is an extraordinary and unprecedented history :—but it affords valuable information, as it shews what *may* be done for the benefit of these poor creatures. Of their present condition it is not exaggeration to say, that there is no other species of slavery existing in the world, more derogatory to the rights of human nature. The use of *climbing boys* is peculiar to England, and is of no great antiquity, hardly above a century old. At present our convenience, in this instance, is procured by the annual sacrifice of both the *temporal* and *eternal welfare* of many of our fellow creatures. —I have always been persuaded “ that that which “ is *wrong in principle* should never be compromised “ for *convenience* or *policy* :” but, if in this instance *necessity* is the plea, if the practice *cannot* be given up ; if that, which is done in all the other parts of Europe, cannot be adopted in England, let us, at least, mitigate the severity of their condition : let us protect them during their apprenticeship, and provide for them at the expiration of it.

What Mr. Porter recommends, is that a society or corporation be formed, for the protection of *climbing boys* during the period of their apprenticeship, and for putting them out to other trades at sixteen years of age, when that period expires ;—that their beds, clothing, and domestic accommodation, and the treatment which they receive during

their apprenticeship, shall be put under a regular system of inspection ; and, from time to time, be reported to the society :—that the children shall be cleaned, and have a change of dress, so as, on Sunday, regularly to attend church ; and that they shall have, on that day, a comfortable dinner provided for them, at the society's expence, in a Sunday school ; thereby securing to them a periodical return of cleanliness and civilization every week :—that no boy shall *ever* be allowed to cry the streets in London ; a practice, that has been the cause of the greatest part of the hardships that the climbing boys undergo ; and which is no more necessary in this, than in any other trade in London :—and lastly, that apprentice-fees be given with such of the lads, as shall attain the age of sixteen, and prefer a trade ; and to those who shall choose to continue as journeymen in the trade, or shall enter into the sea service, a similar fee, at the age of twenty-one, in order to assist them in setting up in business.

Such are the outlines of a plan, which, if the subject is favourably received, may be soon ready to be submitted to the consideration of the public.

*4th Dec. 1797.*

## No. XX.

*Extract from an account of a charity for placing out poor children, at Greetham, in the county of Durham. By the Rev. JOHN BREWSTER.*

IN November, 1790, a fund, arising from a rent charge of 6*l.* a year, for apprenticing and placing out poor children at Greetham, fell under my direction. The beneficial effects attending this small institution induce me to make this communication; from which, I trust, it will appear that much good may be done in this way at a small expence.

The following is a general statement of the trust account for the last seven years.

Receipts from November 1790, to November 1797.

| Received the balance remaining in hand                     | £. | s. | d.             |
|--|----|----|----------------|
| November, 1790   | -  | -  | 12 10 —        |
| Received rent charge of 6 <i>l.</i> a year for seven years | -  | -  | 42 — —         |
|  |    |    | <u>54 10 —</u> |

Payments during the same period.

|  |   |   |                |
|--|---|---|----------------|
| Paid for putting out nine apprentices, and for clothing two girls for service, at 2 <i>l.</i> 19 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> each  | - | - | 2 14 6         |
| Paid for one apprentice, at 7 <i>l.</i> 16 <i>s.</i> , one at 4 <i>l.</i> , one at 3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> , one at 1 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> , and two at 1 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> each |   |   | 18 15 6        |
| Carried forward  |   |   | <u>51 10 0</u> |



|   | £.    | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Brought forward   | 51    | 10 | —  |
| Paid for clothing one girl for service  | 1     | 1  | —  |
| Paid for partly clothing one boy for sea  | —     | 10 | 6  |
| Allowed the overseer of the poor for receiving the rent, at one shilling per annum, for seven years | —     | 7  | —  |
| Balance in hand, 7th November, 1797   | 1     | 1  | 6  |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |
|   | 54    | 10 | —  |

## OBSERVATIONS.

To place the children of the poor, as early as possible, in trades or occupations, answers two useful purposes;—the removing the expence of maintenance from the parent or the parish, and the training of the child in habits of industry and virtue. I have sated the specific sums expended for each child, in order to show how little is required on such occasions. In one or two instances, the parish-added something, to supply the deficiency of the fund, which could not admit of large deductions; and, with only that aid to this very small fund, fifteen children have been apprenticed, and four clothed for service, in the course of the last seven years.\*

\* It would be very beneficial to the poor of England, if the trustees of all charities could render the same account of the execution of their respective trusts, as Mr. Brewster has done. There is, I fear, too much ground to presume that some of our charitable donations have been lost by fraud or inattention; and many of the rest applied for the purposes of elections, or for private or partial objects, or,

Services in husbandry, or menial trades, are the usual destinations of village children. To adapt,

at best, merely in aid of the parish rate; in none of which instances do the poor reap that benefit which the founders of the charity intended for them. Besides this, in charities the income of which arises from land (and such are most of the parochial charities of England) the management of the estate generally gets into the hands of a country attorney: who, in too many instances, makes it the object not only of emolument, but of power and interest, by letting the estate at an under rent, or by ordering unnecessary repairs, and by various other acts in the management of the charity.—The statute of charitable uses, passed immediately after that for the relief of the poor, was intended to correct these abuses: but the execution of this act has been, in a great degree, prevented by the expence and difficulty attending the inquiry thereby directed and authorised; and it may almost be considered as obsolete. The mismanagement of charities would be, in some measure, corrected by a regulation, that all wills and deeds, by which any charities have been, or shall be, founded, increased, or regulated, together with a terrier of their estates, specifying, if land, the acres, rent, tenant's name, &c. (and, if money, how invested) should be inrolled with the clerk of the peace of each county, or in some other public office;—that the enrollment be open to public inspection, at the usual fee; and that the accounts of all parochial charities be annually passed, upon oath, by one of the trustees, or their agent, before a magistrate; and that account transmitted by the magistrate, to be filed at the quarter-sessions.—By the report of the committee of the house of commons, of 10th June 1788, many charitable donations appear “to have been lost; and many others, from neglect of payment, and the inattention of those persons who ought to superintend them, are in danger of being lost or rendered very difficult to be recovered.”—The rental of these charitable estates is very considerable; those of which returns were made in 1787, amounting to 258,710*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* a year; and the whole, if the returns had been complete, in all probability, greatly exceeding that sum. Above 210,000*l.* a year of this is in land—Let the reader calculate what would be the individual relief to many of our distressed fellow subjects, if that income were conscientiously applied, and *entirely accounted for*, according to the intentions of the donors; and whether it might not, by *preventing indigence and distress*, greatly diminish the calls for parochial relief. This (to use the words of the committee)

therefore, this plan to the use of towns, it will be requisite to enlarge the scale of expence, according to the situation. But, in distributing charitable funds of this nature, it will not be an unnecessary caution, that the overseers of the poor be not intrusted with the sole management of them: for though they are often men of real integrity, yet they will sometimes be so far interested, as to wish to confine the effects of the institution to the children of *chargeable* poor only, for the sake of alleviating the burthen of the parish. In all parishes there are many poor persons, who receive no charitable support at all, and yet have large families to send out into the world. These ought to be the first objects of attention, as, in all probability, it is from the exertions of their industry, that they have been hitherto enabled to preserve themselves in an independent situation; and with a little aid of this kind,\* it is most likely that they may be able to go on without any call for parochial relief.

is a matter of such *magnitude* as to call for “the *serious* and “*speedy* attention of parliament, and the establishment of “such measures, as may be effectual for the relief of the “poor persons, who were the objects of the said donations, “and for carrying the charitable purposes of the donors “into execution.”

\* Charitable estates, when they consist either of land, or of money secured on mortgages, are extremely liable to abuse, not only in their application, but in the investment of the money in mortgage, or in the management of the estates, as has been stated in the preceding note. The national funds *should be* the security for the property of charities. The landed estate of parochial charities in England considerably exceeds 200,000*l.* a year. If there was a general power for the trustees to sell those estates, under a summary order of the court of chancery, and to invest the produce *permanently* in the funds, in some corporate name

Such a fund would be an excellent appendage to a charity school. The trustees of such schools generally lose sight of the children, as soon as they are dismissed from the school. But if they were to extend their care a little further, and see them, with small premiums, clothed and placed at service, or apprentised to suitable trades, it could not but be attended with the best effects.—It would be to the scholar a reward of merit, and to the parent a great encouragement to promote the regular attendance and proper behaviour of the child.

*ex parte* the respective trustees, a large real property would be unfettered, that is now held in mortmain, and those charitable funds would receive a very considerable increase of income, punctually paid, without expence, and be protected from a great deal of the misapplication and abuse, to which they are now liable. A fund of near half a million a year might, in consequence, become applicable to the *prevention* of distress and want among the lower classes of society. B. 3d Feb. 1798.

7th Nov. 1797.

## No. XXI.

*Extract from an account of a charity, for assisting the female poor, at the period of their lying-in. By the Rev. ROBERT HOLT.*

**F**IFTEEN sets of childbed linen and clothes are distributed in parcels at Stowe, Wotton, Buckingham, and Aylesbury, in the county of Buckingham, and at Gosfield Hall in Essex, under the care of persons at those places, who receive applications and inquire into the characters of the persons applying. The sets are lent out for a fortnight, three weeks, or a month, according to circumstances, and consist of the following articles each;—three sheets, two blankets, one leathern sheet, two bed-gowns, two night caps, three bed-shifts, three children's caps, three children's shirts, one cotton wrapper, one flannel wrapper, and a sufficient quantity of small articles.

The woman, who has the use of any set, is allowed to retain a cap, a shirt, and some flannel for the child: the rest are returned clean, and five shillings allowed her for washing them; which, as that is generally done by the kindness of her neighbours, is so far an additional charity to her.—During her confinement, broth and beer caudle are occasionally sent her, and medical aid in particular cases.

This charity was instituted by the Marchioness



of Buckingham about ten years ago.—The benefit of it has been accepted by the poor in the most grateful manner; and there occurs no instance of its having been abused, by their damaging or purloining any of the articles. Almost every article is spun, woven, and made up at the schools for poor children, which have been of late years established at Stowe, Wotton, and Gosfield; and, when made of coarse materials, which will answer the purpose, need not cost more than 30s. a set. The annual expence in keeping them up may be about 10s. a set.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The advantage of this charity is, that it affords the poor, at a small expense, much more relief and comfort, than they could provide for themselves with the same sum, even if they possessed it: for one set of articles may, in the course of a year, serve a dozen families successively, who either might not have the means of purchasing them, or, if they had, would be obliged to buy them merely for temporary use, and then to sell them again to disadvantage. Besides this, there is a saving in the purchase of the articles by wholesale, and an advantage in thus furnishing work for a village school. Though what has been done, in this instance, is at the expense of one person, it is quite as well suited to be established by subscription, and conducted by a committee

of subscribers. I understand this charity has been administered many years, at Audley End, in Essex ; and that it has been adopted, on a smaller scale, in some other places.

*6th Dec. 1797.*

## No. XXII.

*Extract from an account of an attempt to ascertain the circumstances of the beggars of London, with observations on the best mode of relieving them. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

IN order to inform himself on this subject, Mr. Martin has,\* from the beginning of the year 1796, distributed tickets in London, to appoint such of the beggars there, as seemed to merit and wish inquiry into their circumstances, to come to him for that purpose. Of these as many as 120 have attended in consequence ;—21 men and 99 women.

Of the men, the greater part were maimed, or disabled by age or sickness ; and only two of them belonged to any place of legal settlement in London.

Of the women, there were 48 widows ; seven of them the widows of soldiers ; only one of them of a seaman. About a third of these consisted of aged women ; some were crippled, and some distressed for want of work ; many of them embarrassed by ignorance of the mode of obtaining parochial assistance, or by the fear of applying for it.

Of the wives, in most cases, the difficulty was the want of work, or the incapacity of doing it on

\* Matthew Martin, Esq. Secretary of the Society, and one of the Committee.

account of a child in arms. There were cases of very great distress. Above half of them had two or more children, who were some of them infants, and the greater part of the residue of an helpless age, too young for work.

With regard to the settlements of the women, 24 referred him to parishes in London and Westminster ; 33 to parishes in different parts of England ; 22 belonged to Scotland and Ireland ; and the remaining 20 said they could not give, or at least declined giving him any account of their place of settlement.

By application, in most cases, to their parishes, and in some to their friends, he was enabled to obtain effectual relief for several of them ; for others he is now using his endeavours. To all of them, the gift of a little food, and the hearing of their melancholy story, afforded some comfort.

### OBSERVATIONS.

Upon this paper, extracted from Mr. Martin's account, I have to add a few observations of my own.—As to the parochial poor of the metropolis, though they are *in general* treated with kindness and attention, yet the overseers in London have more room allowed for the operations of favour and prejudice, than in country parishes. The magistrates, in the city of Westminster and its suburbs, interfere very little in questions of parochial relief ; and the poor are, in consequence, left almost entirely to the *discretion* or *caprice* of the parish

officers ; and frequently, by the want of relief, or by their not understanding the mode of applying for it, are induced to increase the number of beggars in London.

In many of the instances, where persons of this description beg in the streets, a neglect of duty is in a certain degree, imputable to some of the parish officers of London.—But there is, in the metropolis, a more numerous class of mendicants, who belong to parishes in the country. By the preceding account it will appear, that, of the 120 beggars whose cases have been inquired into, one-third of the women, and the greater part of the men, belonged to country parishes ; which in some cases, there is too much reason to believe, their parish officers, either by menaces or promises, had prevailed upon them to quit, in order to set up the trade of a London beggar. In this manner the poor and the helpless, by harsh treatment, or by a trifling present, are sometimes separated from their own connections, where they might live cheaper and earn something, and where by law they are entitled to support and protection, and are in a degree compelled to increase the mass of vice and misery in the metropolis.

This is an abuse which *ought* to be corrected.—Lest, however, I should be misunderstood, I must state what has always been my sentiment : that in policy and justice, every individual should be at liberty, while he can work, to carry his industry to that parish, in which he can exert it with most



benefit to himself and the community : and I should add that, in point of kindness and humanity, the aged and infirm, who want parochial aid, should not be removed to a distant parish, that may have been their place of settlement, though not of residence : much less that they should be driven, at the close of a useful life, into a parish work-house, while they have friends and connections, with whom they may continue upon a parochial allowance, not more, and probably less, than they would cost in a workhouse.—But the case of London beggars, with country settlements, is very different. Their connections are not in London. They have wandered from their parishes, from their friends, and from those who are by law directed to maintain them, to a place new and unknown to them ; where, by a display of misery, too frequently the genuine though uncredited representation of real sufferings, they draw *comfortless* and *ignominious* relief from the compassion of individuals, instead of receiving at home that parochial protection and support, to which by law they are entitled.

To these two classes is to be added a third, consisting chiefly of casual poor, who are occasionally out of employment, and either are not, or pretend not to be able to procure work. Of these some are ready and desirous to be employed ; and the greater part would work, if it were as easy for them to obtain employment, as it is to ask alms. For the relief of them, we have only to follow the example of Count Rumford, in his great and excellent esta-

blishment at Munich ; or that of Lord Winchilsea in his school at Oakham,\* admirable in its simplicity and facility of execution :—we have only to establish work-rooms in different parts of the metropolis, where the poor shall have the option of attending or not, where they shall receive inviolably every penny of their earnings, and where they may, *if they prefer it*, partake of a comfortable and good meal at a cheap rate,

I have described the three classes, of which the beggars of London do principally consist :—1st, of aged and infirm persons, belonging to parishes in or about the metropolis : parishes, which ought and, with proper assistance, would pay more attention to them : 2d, of a similar description of persons from country parishes, where they should be received and maintained ; something being done, if an extraordinary case occurred, to prevent their sending away their parochial poor : and 3d, of persons who cannot procure employment, and of other casual poor, for whose resort and relief work-rooms ought to be opened.

What is proposed would have the merit of being capable of execution with little or no addition to the statute book ; as it would hardly require more than the enforcement of our present laws, in instances where the neglect of them has been attended with serious evils to the community. If, therefore, by the enforcement of those laws, and by the aid of individuals, these three objects are attained ; —the relieving of the aged and impotent of London

\* See p. 45 of the Reports.

parishes ;—the assisting of the country poor to return to their own parishes ;—and the finding of employment for the casual poor, who either cannot find work, or do not wish to find it—begging will soon become, in London, an unnecessary and unprofitable trade.

A question, however, may arise, whether this object, so far as it calls for the aid of the magistrate, can be attained by the present police offices ; or whether it will not require a new and original office of its own.—Most of the police offices are already pretty fully employed ; but even if they were not, yet a regular system of relief, that is to pervade the whole of the metropolis—to provide work and the means of maintenance for all who *can* labour, and for the aged and infirm (who *cannot*) comfort and relief, in the mode best for them, and least burthensome to society ;—a measure like this, I am persuaded, could never be completed, and properly carried into effect in this great town, but by one office. It would otherwise be devoid of that singleness and uniformity of plan, which would be essential to its success : not that it seems necessary that any new appointment should be made for the purpose ; as a weekly board held at one of the now existing offices, or, which perhaps would be better, at a separate office, by some of the most active and intelligent magistrates, selected from the other offices, might be fully adequate to these important objects.

Such an office, established in the metropolis for the sole purpose of attending to the poor, and form-

ing and promoting plans for their employment and protection, if conducted with zeal, industry, temper, and discretion, would be attended with the most beneficial effects, not merely in the relief of the distressed and impotent poor, but in the reform of the idle and profligate.—Whether the execution of the measure should be conducted by the Society, the expences being defrayed from funds to be furnished by public contribution, or by any other mode, is matter for serious consideration. In any event, it would produce an important diminution, in the amount of misery and vice in London: and it would be the means of assisting and encouraging virtue and industry, and converting the benevolence of individuals into its proper and legitimate channel.

*9th Dec. 1797.*

## No. XXIII.

*Extract from an account of a mode adopted in Staffordshire, for supplying the poor with milk. By the Rev. THOMAS GISEBORNE.*

IN the village of Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire, the principal number of the poorer inhabitants were destitute of all means of procuring milk for their families. The benefit which would result, if they could be furnished with that article of food, appeared of so much importance, that, nearly three years since, a specific plan for providing a supply was adopted. A respectable tradesman in the parish expressed his readiness to take a quantity of his land into his own hands, and to employ it in keeping cows, for the purpose of selling their milk to the poor. He mentioned, however, two obstacles, as necessary to be removed. He stated the impracticability of distributing the milk at his own house ; as the crowd, which would frequent it for a considerable time every morning and evening, together with the consequent noise and trouble, would be equally unpleasant and inconvenient. And he apprehended that he should receive from the purchasers a quantity of copper coin, larger than he should be capable of circulating again, either in the way of change to them, or in his own business. It was therefore settled, that the milk should be regularly



carried from the field to the house of another inhabitant of the village, and sold there: and a friend of the undertaking engaged to pay this person annually for his trouble. The tradesman had also an assurance, that copper coin, to the amount of some guineas annually, should be taken off his hands, if he thought proper. These points being adjusted, the measure was carried into effect at Candlemas, 1795; and it has been continued without interruption to the present time. The advantages which have accrued from it to the poor, have completely answered the expectations previously formed.

The following brief statement will sufficiently show the detail of the business.

Nineteen acres of land, which might be set to good tenants at 2*l.* 10*s.* per acre, are wholly employed in furnishing grass and hay for the cows, and in rearing two or three calves. The stock of cows constantly kept is seven. Four of them calve at different periods in the spring and summer, and three in the autumn and winter.—The price, at which the milk is sold, is three halfpence per quart, from the beginning of August until the time of turning out to grass in the spring, and one penny, during the remainder of the year. It is always paid in ready money.

The quantity furnished to each poor family is regulated by the number of children in the family, and by other similar circumstances. Some of the purchasers generally attend to see the milk carried from the field to the place of sale: and they are all

satisfied that the quality is unadulterated, and the measure ample.

If the milk had been sold at two-pence a quart, during the three winter months, and at three halfpence the rest of the year, the account would have been in profit: but, at a penny a quart for the summer half year, there was a deficiency of about 5*l*. \* as will appear by the following statement, made by the tradesman who sells the milk, of the receipts and expences, for one year, ending the 17th of September, 1797.

### RECEIPTS.

|                                      | £.    | s.    | d.    |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| One year's receipts for milk         | 70    | 8     | 5     |
| Milk kept for the tradesman's family | 12    | 5     | 9     |
| Sale of young calves                 | 3     | 6     | —     |
| Value of three rearing calves        | 8     | 10    | —     |
| Lattermath of part of the land       | 2     | 1     | 6     |
|                                      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                      | 96    | 11    | 8     |

\* There are many parts of England, in which milk may be had at less cost, than in this part of Staffordshire. I have the authority of Mr. Mansel, of Lathbury Hall near Newport Pagnell, that, in his neighbourhood, cows may be kept with more advantage and less expence, than in that of Mr. Gisborne. This information is of importance, as it shews that Mr. Gisborne's example may be imitated with great advantage in other parts of England. Mr. Mansell thinks that the lattermath should be kept; and that, where the supply of milk is the object; calves should not be reared; as they consume the richest milk, which should be mixed with the other: he conceives that, in his own neighbourhood, the cutting of hedges will pay the expence of fences; and that nothing need be allowed for changing cows; as an intelligent farmer would make some benefit by buying and selling. B. 12th April, 1793.

## EXPENCES.

|   | £.             | s. | d. |
|---|----------------|----|----|
| A year's rent of nineteen acres of land,<br>at 50s. per annum -       | 47             | 10 | —  |
| Taxes, &c. - - -  | 3              | 16 | 6  |
| Mowing, getting hay, &c. - -  | 6              | 12 | 6  |
| Straw for dry cows and litter -                                       | 6              | —  | —  |
| Rent of croft at home, yards and shed                                 | 2              | 10 | —  |
| Decrease in value of stock from age                                   | 3              | 10 | —  |
| <i>N. B. If young cows they may improve.</i>                          |                |    |    |
| Hazard in stock, drugs, &c. -   | 6              | 5  | —  |
| Interest of the value of stock -                                      | 4              | 4  | —  |
| Loss in changing stock, to keep a regular<br>supply, and expences - - | 3              | 10 | —  |
| James Harding, for care of cows and ex-<br>tra wages to servant - -   | 8              | 17 | —  |
| Carrying dung and soil, mixing and car-<br>rying composts - -         | 5              | 5  | —  |
| Hedging, ditching, spreading, &c.                                     | 1              | 10 | —  |
| Cultivation of cabbages - -   | 1              | 6  | —  |
| Use of bull - - -   | —              | 17 | 6  |
|   | <hr/> 101 13 6 |    |    |

## OBSERVATIONS.

In stating the preceding plan, which I have done at the desire of the Bishop of Durham, I do not mean to intimate that it is preferable to others which have been adopted elsewhere, for the attainment of the same object. That object, univer-

sally most desirable, may in different places be best attained in different ways ; and in some places it may be attainable by that method only, which has been described. When this mode is selected, to provide for the permanence of the measure will generally prove more beneficial than to require *extreme* cheapness in the price of the article. To be able daily to purchase milk, though at its full value, is a very important advantage to the poor.\* A local subscription, however, for the purpose of reducing the price, will frequently be an eligible mode of charity. But if the seller be urged to dispose of the milk at a rate, † that will not allow him

\* It would be a great benefit and comfort to the poor, if farmers would generally, or even occasionally, sell them, for ready money, small quantities (as half a bushel) of corn, and single cheeses. The *trouble* of small dealings, which is the objection alledged, would be trifling, if one or two stated hours, on a fixed day in each week, were assigned for the purpose. By being thus rescued from the impositions too prevalent among millers, bakers, and hucksters, the poor would save, I apprehend, at least two-pence in every shilling, not to mention other important benefits.

† Milk is an article of very great importance to the poor ; it is essential to the nourishment of children, and extremely useful to the economy of families. Where the cottager can be supplied with the means of keeping his cow, his benefit will be very considerable : where he cannot, the mode adopted by Mr. Gisborne, is very deserving of attention and imitation. There may, however, be parts of England (particularly where a good deal of butter, or rich cheese, is made) in which the poor cannot in general have new milk : but, in those places, if they could be supplied, either as a gift or by purchase, with skim-milk, even that would be of great use to them ; especially as it would come at a very cheap rate.—Where the poor can purchase skim-milk, they get it very cheap ; it costs them about a half-penny a quart. To ascertain its utility to a cottager, who has children, try the following ingredients :

to draw from his fields a profit equal to the rent for which he could set them, or to the common returns from other modes of husbandry in the neighbourhood, he will probably continue the plan with reluctance, or will ultimately abandon it. In Barton, the price was originally fixed at one penny per quart, from Ladyday till Michaelmas; and at three halfpence, during the rest of the year. But experience proved it to be too low; and the more so, as of late the prime cost of cattle has been very high, and the advantage resulting from raising butcher's meat, cheese, and butter, proportionally large.

The tradesman has not had occasion to apply to be relieved from a super-abundance of copper coin; a circumstance which suggests the hope that in other places, where the plan now detailed may be instituted, difficulties, apprehended at first, may be found on trial to be of little moment.

3d. Dec. 1797.

|                         | d.              |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Two quarts of skim-milk | 1               |
| Half a pound of rice    | 1               |
| Two ounces of treacle   | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
|                         | <hr/>           |
|                         | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
|                         | <hr/>           |

These, either boiled or baked, will produce four pounds of pudding; and at the expence of hardly more than a *half-penny each*, will give a plentiful and wholesome dinner to four children.—I am very sorry to observe, that it is not unusual for persons in many parts of England, instead of *giving* or even *selling* their refuse skim-milk to their poorer neighbours, to *throw it to their hogs*. B. 7th April, 1798.



## No. XXIV.

*Extract from an account of a plan for allowing the poor a bounty on their work. By THOMAS HALL, Esq.*

IN my neighbourhood, in Hampshire, there has been, for near twenty years back, a bounty allowed the poor on their work ; which has been found to produce very good effects in the increase of industry. In this way the sum of three shillings a week, thus dispensed by the overseers in the aid and encouragement of a family of six persons, has, as a bounty on work, eventually produced them the comfortable income of nine shillings a week : whereas, in the common mode, three shillings a week would have gone but a very little way to their maintenance. By the advice of a manufacturer, the bounty is now proportioned to each shilling earned ; so as to apply to the quality of the work, as well as to the quantity.

## OBSERVATIONS.

It is presumed that in this manner, great part of the able-bodied poor might be supported, at half the expence that is now incurred on their account ; and that better order and regularity would be kept up among them, and the national stock of industry increased. The plan is simple and easy in its

execution ; and the meanest cottage may, by the bounty proposed, become a working house for one family, so long as it is wanted.—I cannot help making an observation (connected with this subject, as it relates to industry and the encouragement of it) that if parish certificates were granted for a limited period, as for two or more years, there would be eight or ten granted under such a limitation, for one that is granted in the present mode ; and thereby the number of industrious people in the nation would be much increased, it being found that certificated labourers are, in general, more active and industrious than settled inhabitants, resident in their own parishes.

*7th Dec. 1797.*

## No. XXV.

*Extract from an account of the benefit of the use of Rice. By the Matron of the Foundling.*

**D**URING the scarcity of wheat in July, 1795, one of the measures adopted at the Foundling Hospital, with a view of lessening the consumption of flour, was the substitution of rice puddings for those of flour; which, by the table of diet, were used for the children's dinner twice a week. The flour puddings, for each day, had taken about 168 lb. weight of flour; the rice puddings, substituted in their place, required only 21 lb. of rice, to make the same quantity of pudding; the result of the experiment being that, in a baked pudding made with milk, one pound of rice will go very nearly as far as eight pounds of flour.

The use of the puddings have ever since been continued in the hospital, with this variation, that the quantity of rice has been increased to 24 lb. weight for each day's dinner; and it now continues the substitute for near 168 lb. of flour before used: the ingredients in the rice puddings at present being 24 lb. of rice, 6 lb. of treacle, and 18 gallons of milk; and the produce, upon an average 180 lb.\*

\* In order to ascertain correctly the comparative weight of the materials in their liquid state, with that of the pudding after it is baked, the weight has been carefully taken

of good substantial pudding; a very sufficient dinner for the 170 persons who dine on it.

The milk is the better kind of London milk; about equal to good skim-milk in the country. The expence of the dinner is as follows:—24lb. of rice, five shillings; 6lb. of treacle, two shillings; and 18 gallons of milk, twelve shillings;\* the total for 170 persons being nineteen shillings, or rather more than five farthings per head.—The saving to the Hospital, by this use of rice during the year, was something more than 20*l.*; and the national saving in the consumption of flour, from that circumstance only, during the same period of scarcity, being one year ending July 1796, appears to be nearly 17,472 lb. weight of flour.

### OBSERVATIONS.

From this account it will appear, how much benefit, as well national as individual, may be

several times. The amount has not always been *precisely* the same, but the average is nearly as follows:

Weight of 18 gallons of milk, being about 1 lb.

|                   |   |   |   |         |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---------|
| 3 ounces the pint | - | - | - | 171 lb. |
| 24 lb. of rice    | - | - | - | 24 lb.  |
| 6 lb. of treacle  | - | - | - | 6 lb.   |

|                          |   |   |   |         |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Total of the ingredients | - | - | - | 201 lb. |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---------|

|   |   |   |   |         |
|---|---|---|---|---------|
| Average weight of the rice pudding in a solid state | - | - | - | 180 lb. |
|---|---|---|---|---------|

|                           |   |   |   |        |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| Average waste in dressing | - | - | - | 21 lb. |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--------|

\* Where skim-milk, as in the country, may be had at 2*d.* a gallon, the price of this dinner would hardly exceed a half penny a head.

derived from the general use of rice. There is hardly any way in which it can be stewed down, either with bacon and seasoning, or with meat, or with cheese, in which it will not make a cheap, pleasant, and nutritious dish : and it is particularly proper for, and palatable to, the aged, the infirm, and the young, who compose the greater part of the inhabitants of a poorhouse.

Rice contains a great deal of nutriment in a small compass, and does not pass so quickly off the stomach, as some other substitutes for wheat flour do. It is a good ingredient in bread. Boil a quarter of a pound of rice till it is quite soft : then put it on the back part of a sieve to drain it : and, when it is cold, mix it with three quarters of a pound of flour, a tea-cupful of yeast, a tea-cupful of milk, and a small table-spoonful of salt. Let it stand for three hours : then knead it up ; and roll it in about a handful of flour, so as to make the outside dry enough to put into the oven. About an hour and a quarter will bake it ; and it will produce one pound fourteen ounces of very good white bread. It should not be eaten till it is two days old.

It is to be observed that the Carolina rice bakes well without any preparation ; but that the East India rice, though adapted for boiling or stewing, does not in general answer for baking, without being previously prepared, by soaking for a day or two in cold water.—That the increase in bulk and weight is not entirely owing to the milk, may be proved by boiling a quarter of a pound of plain



rice, in a bag tied so loose as to be capable of holding five times the quantity. It will produce above a pound of solid rice pudding. But this is only to be observed of rice that is not ground; if it be ground, the produce is not so great.

*25th Nov. 1797.*

## No. XXVI.

*Extract from an account of the advantage of a cottager keeping a pig. By the Rev. Dr. GLASSE.*

**J**AMES BRAMSGROVE, a farmer's labourer at Greenford, in Middlesex, had saved by his industry, the sum of four guineas. With this he purchased a hog, which he put up to fatten in the beginning of April last. In the course of the fattening, he used 3 quarters and a half of beans, and 7 bushels of pease, with which he had been supplied, chiefly upon credit, by his master and his neighbours.—He has a wife and 5 children; the 2 eldest, girls; one 12 years old, the other something younger. He, his wife, and his two girls, during the last harvest, earned two guineas a week, and in one week the sum of £2. 11s. so that he has continued to maintain his family, and has paid off all that was due from him for beans and pease.—He has since killed his hog, at Michaelmas; the weight was 64 stone 3lb.; part of it he sold at  $7\frac{1}{2}d.$  per pound; the rest he has reserved for the use of his own family. Estimating the whole at  $7\frac{1}{2}d.$  per pound, the value of the hog would have been above £16. : but, as what he sold consisted of the prime pieces, some deduction ought to be made on that account.

## OBSERVATIONS.

Where a cottager possesses any property, when he has a garden, a pig, or a cow, his advantage is to be estimated, not merely by the pecuniary profit produced, but by the superior tone of industry and economy which he acquires. In the instance which I have mentioned, of James Bramsgrove and his family, the prospect of increased comfort, and of improved means of subsistence, gave an incentive and a pleasure to all their labour and exertions, during the late harvest. Perhaps it may be needless to observe, that habits of application and good conduct, when once acquired and *enjoyed*, continue in almost every instance, through life, a blessing to the possessor: and that where the cottager has acquired at home a pleasurable object of industry, to which his hopes and wishes are directed; it has the effect of attaching him to his situation, of augmenting his energy, and of reconciling him to a life of labour and hardship.

There are situations, in which, on account of the high value and rent of land, or on account of there being very little grass land or common, a cow cannot be kept, with advantage, by the cottager. There, it is probable, no better mode can be suggested of supplying the poor with milk, than that so successfully adopted by Mr. Gisborne,

near Litchfield: but a pig may be kept, and a garden cultivated, with benefit to the cottager, in every part of the kingdom.

*12th Dec. 1797.*

## No. XXVII.

*Extract from an account of a society, or promotion of industry, in the county of Essex. By JOHN CONYERS, Esq.*

**I**N November, 1794, a meeting was held at Epping in Essex, to take into consideration a proposal for the promotion of industry in that neighbourhood. An association was formed of fourteen parishes, the parochial subscription being agreed to be one per cent. on their rates, and that of individuals not more than 5s. each. This, with a few benefactions, produced in 1795, the sum of £154;\* which was proposed to be set apart as a

\* I beg leave to recommend to the reader the following extract from the minutes of Mr. Conyer's speech, on the first proposal of this establishment, in November, 1794. "The plan which he alluded to, and which he should have "the honour to lay before the meeting, was founded on one "of the wisest and most humane laws, which this country "has to boast of; and which was passed in the forty-third "year of queen Elizabeth's reign, for the maintenance and "employment of the poor. The object of this act was, not "merely to relieve the *indigent*, but to prevent *indigence* "itself. It was calculated, not only to guard against poverty "and distress, but against vice and immorality also. It "regarded the mental, as well as the corporal welfare of "those, whom it professed to protect. He could not avoid "observing the superiority of the act just mentioned, over "some of the acts, which have been since passed for the "regulation of the poor; acts which permitted parishes to "farm their poor to governors of workhouses (whose interest it "was to make as great a profit of them as possible) and to "affix badges to the clothes of beggars. These regulations



fund\* for giving annual presents of clothing to those children, who should produce the best specimens of industry ; and sums of money, not exceeding £10. each, for any such young person on their going to apprenticeship, or service, or being married, according to the number of annual prizes such young person should have obtained : and also rewards in money to poor persons who had brought up four or more children to the age of fourteen years without parish relief, and to overseers who should distinguish themselves in the execution of their office, and in the employment of the poor. The society at the same time took measures for having work-rooms and teachers provided in the different parishes, and spinning wheels and a supply of work for the poor at their own houses ; and also for ensuring to them that they should be paid by their parishes, the *full price* † of their work ;

“ had indeed made it painful to indigent persons of any  
 “ sensibility to apply for relief, which the infirmities and  
 “ calamities, incident to human nature, rendered necessary  
 “ for them ; but neither of these measures had reduced, or  
 “ was likely to reduce, the number of the poor, or to  
 “ correct the profligacy of their manners.” B. 3d March,  
 1798.

\* The reader is referred for further particulars, to a printed account of the institution, published for the benefit of the Society, and sold by Cadell and Davies in the Strand.

† The poor, who might otherwise be inclined to spin yarn, labour under great discouragement, arising from the manner in which they are paid for their work when finished. The shopkeeper of whom they get their yarn, professes to pay them at the rate of a penny per hank ; but, when the work is returned to him, he deducts threepence or fourpence (or in cases when the trade has been slack, five-pence) from every pound of wool spun. This is considered as the

which, though making a difference of only threepence or fourpence in the pound, and being a very trifling expence to the parish, was nevertheless,

wool-stapler's profit. Thus an indifferent spinner, who makes but twelve or perhaps ten hanks of a pound of yarn, gets but eightpence or sixpence for her work. But this is not the only discouragement. The shop-keeper makes a favour of supplying her with yarn, and will not supply her with any, unless she will consent, not only to take out in shop-goods the amount of what she earns by spinning, but will engage to purchase of him alone such necessaries for her family as his shop will furnish. By these means she is precluded from laying out her money at any other shop, where she thinks she could get articles of a better quality, or at a cheaper rate: and is obliged to submit to any imposition, which a griping shopkeeper may lay upon her.—The committee of industry in Essex, considering their fund as insufficient for the purpose of relieving the poor from this oppression, by paying them the full price for their work, has recommended the plan to parishes. In that of Chipping Ongar, by the attention of the Rev. Mr. Herringham and some of the principal inhabitants of the parish, this plan has been carried into execution, and has produced a very good effect. The parish produces a stock of wool from a worsted maker: this is deposited at the workhouse; and the poor, upon application to the person who has the management of this business, obtain from him a ticket; which being taken to the mistress of the workhouse, she delivers the wool, and files the ticket. The work, when finished, is carried to the person who gave the ticket, and he immediately makes a payment in money, deducting (for the present) fourpence for every pound of work. This is done merely to prevent carelessness in spinning, or frauds in reeling; and the groats so deducted are withheld, till the whole stock of wool is returned to the manufacturer, where every spinner's work is ticketed with her name.—Upon receiving the approbation of the manufacturer as to the work, the spinners are paid their groats; and far from complaining of their being withheld in the first instance, they express a satisfaction at having “a lump of money,” as they call it; to lay out in clothing. The account is kept, as follows:

| Names.       | Work issued. | When issued.  | When returned. | No. of hanks | Money paid. | Groats due. |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| M. Westwood. | 3 lb.        | Mar. 15, 1798 | Mar. 19.       | 36           | 2s. 0d.     | 3           |
| Ann Smith.   | 4 lb.        | Mar. 16, 1798 | Mar. 21.       | 48           | 2s. 8d.     | 4           |

to the individual who received it, a very powerful reward and encouragement.

At a meeting of the society on the 31st of December, 1795, there were 52 children candidates for prizes, as spinners, and knitters; and 21 parents, who had brought up four or more children in lawful wedlock, without parish relief. The parents received donations, not exceeding two guineas each, varied according to the number of their children, and other circumstances: and 31 of the children received presents in clothing, not exceeding twenty shillings each, according to their different merits. They also received with the premiums, certificates\* of good behaviour, which they consider as marks of distinction, and of which they will feel the benefits through life.—In the ensuing year, an equal number of parents received donations,

\* The following is a specimen of the form of a certificate.

INDUSTRY AND GOOD BEHAVIOUR  
procure NOTICE and ESTEEM.

On the 15th day of January, 1798,

Jane Smith

received a premium in clothing

of the value of

twenty shillings

from the

SOCIETY OF INDUSTRY,

for the

hundreds of Ongar and Harlow,

and the

half hundred of Waltham.

in the

COUNTY OF ESSEX,

for her good behaviour, and for her skill

and industry in spinning worsted.

JOHN CONYERS,

Chairman.

on account of the families they had brought up : and clothing, to the amount of 36*l.* 15*s.* was given to 37 children, who had then produced the specimens of industry, in spinning, knitting, and plain needle work.—In the present year (Jan. 1798), donations of clothing have been made to 61 industrious children to the amount of 51*l.* 13*s.*; and to parents, the sum of 23*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* on account of the families which they have brought up.

### OBSERVATIONS.

This establishment, formed on the same plan as that of the Rev. Mr. Bowyer in Lincolnshire, and rendered successful by the great attention given to it by the trustees of the different districts, require very little comment. It is obvious that its operation, by the most pleasing and acceptable means, those of *encouragement* and *attention*, must be to increase the industry and good habits of the poor in the neighbourhood, and greatly to improve the rising generation. The donations may appear small to those who have not sufficiently attended to the circumstances of the labouring poor, to learn that very trifling rewards, given with *kindness*, in a *disinterested* and *honourable* way, and unincumbered with any *humiliating condition*, will do wonders in exciting the industry and economy of the cottager, and in attaching him, by every tie of gratitude and affection, to those who feel sufficiently the obligation of *their own duty*, to become the friends and

benefactors of the poor. I cannot omit taking this opportunity to observe, that every measure of this kind should be so framed and conducted, that the motives may not merely escape the *guilt* of *being interested*, but be exempt from the *discredit* of *being suspected*.

*Feb. 5th. 1798.*



## No. XXVIII.

*Extract from an account of a London soup shop.*

*By WILLIAM HILLYER:*

IN April, 1796, there being a desire of supplying the labourers on the Foundling estate, and the poor in that neighbourhood, with food at a cheaper rate and in more plenty than they had been able to obtain it, I received a proposal for my opening a soup shop on the Foundling estate, from which the poor might be supplied by tickets with soup, pudding, and meat. A Rumford roaster,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 12 inches high, and 32 inches deep, and two Rumford boilers, one of 35 gallons, and the other of 46 gallons, divided into two unequal parts, were fitted up for me, under Count Rumford's direction, by the gentleman who made the proposal. This was placed in my back kitchen, a room 11 feet by 13, and was calculated to be sufficient for the daily supply of 400 persons.

Previous to opening the shop, there were hand-bills printed, announcing my situation, and my prices; which were as follows:—for a mess of boiled beef and vegetables threepence; for half a pound of rice plum-pudding one penny: and for a pint of pease-soup \* one penny.—300 tickets were

\* The price at which Hillyer sells his soup is much more than that at which it is supplied at the subscription soup-shops; but there is a great difference between a soup shop, by the profits of which a man is to maintain himself and his family, and a soup shop, the expences of which are to be supported by a liberal subscription. The latter is an

prepared for these different articles, at 3s. a dozen for the meat tickets, and 1s. a dozen for the others. With these advantages, and the purchase of as many tickets of me as put me into a little ready cash, I opened my soup shop in the new colonnade, near the Foundling, on the 19th of May, 1795. Among the best of my customers were the Irish labourers who worked at the buildings on the Foundling estate; these men, with a pint and a half of the pease soup, and a halfpenny worth of bread for breakfast, and the same quantity at dinner, which cost them fourpence a day, were equal to the hard labour, in which they were employed.

In making the soup, and indeed in dressing all the food, the Rumford kitchen enabled me to supply the public at a cheaper rate than I could otherwise have done, with profit to myself.—For some months my shop went on very well; but the progress of the buildings being gradually retarded, and at length greatly checked, by the war, my business insensibly diminished, many of my customers having gone into the sea-service; so that at Lady-day, 1797, with the approbation of my friends, I moved to Fulwood's Rents, Holborn; a neighbourhood, that promised me a regular and increased custom for my shop.

My business has in consequence greatly increased, and with still more advantage to me from my excellent and useful charity, but it requires a constant and liberal support; the other, as will appear by Hillyer's account, may, with a little attention, be established wherever it is wanted; and will not only maintain itself, but will give maintenance to a deserving family. B.

Rumford kitchen, which has enabled me to extend it a great deal further, than I could in the common way of dressing. My average consumption of butcher's meat in my shop, is from 400lb. to 500lb. weight a week ; so that by the large quantities of meat (such as hams, beef, mutton, &c.) boiled in the water, of which the pease soup is afterwards made, a considerable quantity of animal nourishment is added to the ordinary ingredients of the soup, which are in themselves, and independent of that addition, nutritious and wholesome. This makes the generality of customers prefer the soup to the pudding, except during summer ; and as those, who have penny tickets for soup or pudding, may always have which they please, the quantity of soup used is much greater than that of pudding.

The prices of the different articles to be had now at the shop, neat and of the best quality, are as follows :

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| A mess of roast meat with vegetables.    | 4d.              |
| Ditto of boiled meat with ditto          | 3d.              |
| A pint of leg of beef stew with the meat | 2d.              |
| A pint of soup                           | 1d.              |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of pudding           | 1d.              |
| Bread                                    | $\frac{1}{2}$ d. |
| Table beer                               | $\frac{1}{2}$ d. |

For the best company there is a neat comfortable room, with tables properly set out, where any gentleman may order soup, boiled meat and vegetables, and plum-pudding, the price of the whole dinner, including bread and beer, being six-pence. If he has roast meat, there is the addition of a

penny ; and, if porter, a penny three-farthings more.

Besides the quantity of soup daily made for tickets and chance customers, there are orders from the country, and for some public buildings, to a considerable amount. From one parish, that of Beddington in Surrey, there is a regular order for 32 gallons a week. This comes from a subscription of gentlemen, who find they can be supplied with it in this way better, and at less expence, than they can make it ; and that the poor like it very much, and are extremely thankful for it. I send this soup at 8*d.* a gallon, \* in casks of 16 gallons each, to the place in the Borough, from whence the waggon sets off: but where any subscription, or any poor-house or public body, orders a certain weekly quantity at a fixed hour, and sends a cask or other vessel for it, it will be delivered at the reduced price of 7*d.* a gallon.

### OBSERVATIONS.

For the benefit of any persons, who may be induced to set up soup shops like the above, I hope

\* Since this account was written, Mr. Moser has made Hillyer a present of a digester, for preparing soup, containing 5 gallons. As far as experiment can have gone, it has proved very useful, in saving both food and fuel. Mr. Moser is making him another to contain 20 gallons. If Hillyer can bring this completely into use (and there seems no doubt but he may), he will be able to make the soup at much less expence ; and in the beginning of the next winter to supply it for the poor, in large quantities, at a very reduced price. B. 13th July, 1798.

I may be allowed to observe, that it is essential to the success and permanence of the shop, that the materials should be *good* of their kind, and *wholesome*; and that there should not only be *apparent* but *real cleanliness* in every part of the business. In order to make it answer, a RUMFORD KITCHEN also appears to me to be necessary for economy of food and labour, as well as of fuel; and that, in using the fuel, the strictest limitation is requisite to prevent the increase of the quantity of coals: of which, if too much is used, there is not only a waste of food and fuel, but the apparatus is very soon worn out. I have only to add, that the real comfort with which the poor (*whether* they come with a ticket or with a penny) enjoy their evening mess of soup, is to me a constant source of pleasure; and that I have the satisfaction of reflecting, that while I am making a comfortable provision for myself and my family, I am, in my humble station, contributing, in some degree, to the comfort of my fellow-creatures.

24th Jan. 1798.



## No. XXIX.

*Extract from an account of a school of industry for children, at Lewisham in Kent. By JOHN FORSTER, Esq.*

IN April, 1796, a meeting of the inhabitants of Lewisham was called, for the purpose of setting up a school of industry, for the children of that parish. The subscribers came to a resolution to prepare accommodations for the reception of 60 children, and the house was opened on the 30th of May, 1796.

The children are admitted on the recommendation of subscribers, and by order of the committee. In summer the school is open from six o'clock in the morning to six at night, and in winter during the hours of daylight; but the children have usually finished their task by two o'clock; they then go away, unless, which is the case with some of them, they *prefer* to work additional hours *on their own account*. They receive two meals a day, a breakfast, and a dinner; one hour being allowed at dinner, and half an hour at breakfast. They are employed in spinning, winding, and knitting; and one boy in weaving. The present weaver is an active boy, not 10 years of age: his predecessor had been employed but a very little time, before he had an offer of a permanent engagement at a cotton mill. In rotation they all receive lessons in read-

ing. The children's weekly maintenance is estimated at 1s. 6d. per head; and where they earn more in any week (as some do 6d. a week, and some 1s.) they are paid, and carry home the overplus. One little boy (who came from the workhouse with but a bad character, but who now possesses a very good one) earns not less than an extra shilling a week; he has during the last month put into the master's hands, in trust for him, the sum of 5s. In the case of the parish children, who are entirely maintained at the parish expence, there is, as yet, no certain allowance; but they are rewarded according to their industry and good behaviour. It is however in contemplation to make them a certain allowance; probably a sixth of their earnings.

Spinning wheels are lent, and materials are furnished at home, for any of the adult inhabitants of the parish, who wish employment; and they are paid for their work upon delivery. A suit of clothes, made of the cloth and camblet of their own manufactory, is yearly given to each of the children, who attend the school, as a reward for their good behaviour, and to enable them to appear decently and regularly at church on Sundays.

In the infancy of a manufacture, there is necessarily a loss from the waste of raw materials. In the present instance it must be admitted, that very little profit accrued from the labour of the children, during the first 6 months: but, for the next half year, the profit was gradually increasing; and it advanced so much, that at the end of the year, on the 30th of May, 1797, the net profit of

the manufactory had amounted to 55*l.*—That profit may be fairly stated at 100*l.* a year in future. The school of industry now supplies the parish workhouse with most of their articles of clothing: besides which, a stock of knitted stockings, and of camblets and worsted, is kept in the warehouse to be sold by wholesale and retail. The demand for them has been gradually increasing; and the inhabitants have found their advantage in the purchase of them.

The weekly expence of the family, upon an average, is 3*d.* a head per day; including the \* 20 parish children, and the master and mistress and their two children, who have their three meals a day, and lodge in the house. For each of the parish children the establishment is allowed the sum of 3*s.* a week; which is near 50*l.* a year less than the expence of merely feeding them in the workhouse, during the preceding year.

The following is a pretty correct estimate of the expences and receipts of the establishment.

### PAYMENTS.

|   | £.  | s. |
|---|-----|----|
| Maintenance of the family, clothing, &c.  | 250 | 0  |
| Wages of master and mistress; 10 <i>s.</i> per week. <i>He is extremely well acquainted</i> |     |    |
| Carry forward   | 250 | 0  |

\* This number occasionally varies; there have been 23 in the school at a time; but the number will probably be much less.

|   | £.           | s. |
|---|--------------|----|
| Brought forward   | 250          | 0  |
| <i>with every process in the woollen manu-<br/>facture</i> - - -  | 26           | 0  |
| School mistress ; who teaches the children<br>to read - - -   | 3            | 0  |
| Rent of the house, and the wooden building<br>behind. <i>It was a blacksmith's shop, but<br/>is now the school and work-room</i> -  | 13           | 10 |
| Insurance - - -   | 1            | 0  |
| Mr. Hall, the manager, who does not live<br>in the house, but attends occasionally.<br><i>He purchases the provisions and materials<br/>for the work, and provides a sale for the<br/>articles of manufacture</i> - - | 30           | 0  |
| Incidents, gratuity to the secretary, &c.   | 26           | 10 |
|   | <hr/> £350 0 |    |

## RECEIPTS.

|   | £.    | s. |
|---|-------|----|
| Parish rents appropriated to the institution                                    | 60    | 0  |
| Allowance for 20 parish children, at 3s. a week each                            | -     | -  |
|   | 156   | 0  |
| Profits of manufactory per annum; supposed                                      | -     | -  |
|   | 100   | 0  |
|   | <hr/> |    |
|   | 316   | 0  |
| Deficiency in the infancy of the establishment, to be made good by subscription | 34    | 0  |
|   | <hr/> |    |
|   | £350  | 0  |
| There are 48 persons, including the master and                                  |       |    |

mistress and their two children, who breakfast and dine regularly in the house. The table of diet, and quantities allowed for them, which are quite as much as they wish, are as follows :

Monday. Breakfast. Rice milk : made of 4 lb. of rice, 1 lb. of flour, 1 lb. of sugar, and 4 quarts of milk.

———— Dinner. 20 lb. of beef, and a peck of potatoes, with 17 lb. of bread.

Tuesday. Breakfast. Broth and 13 lb. of bread.

———— Dinner. Boiled rice ; consisting of 15 lb. of rice,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of sugar, and 3 quarts of milk.

Wednesday Same as Monday.

Thursday. Same as Tuesday.

Friday. Breakfast. Gruel, made of 2 quarts of oatmeal, with the allowance of 1 lb. of butter, 11 lb. of bread, and 4 oz. of salt.

———— Dinner. Beef stew ; consisting of 22 lb. of shins of beef, and a peck of potatoes, with 17 lb. of bread.

Saturday. Same as Tuesday and Thursday.

The workhouse children and the master's family (in all 24) have, for their Sunday breakfast, gruel, made of one quart of oatmeal, with the allowance of half a pound of butter, 8 lb. 10 oz. of bread, and 4 oz. of salt ; for dinner, 12 lb. of beef, half a peck of potatoes, 5 lb. 5 oz. of bread, 8 oz. of salt, and 3 quarts of beer ; for supper on Sunday, 6 lb. 8 oz. of bread,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of cheese, and 2 quarts of beer, and the same supper on the other days of the week, with a little additional allowance



of bread, of which they seem to require more on week-days than on Sunday. The price of the beef is 3s. a stone, or  $4\frac{1}{2}d.$  per pound ; of the two shins of beef (weight per average, including bone, 22 lb.) 2s. 6d. ; of potatoes 20d. a bushel ; of their bread, which is good seconds,  $7\frac{1}{2}d.$  the quartern loaf, or rather more than  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  a pound.

By the preceding bill of fare it will appear, that the cheap article of rice now forms a very considerable proportion of the children's diet. The use of it has been gradually increased, partly in consequence of their having acquired a greater fondness for it than for other food, and partly from the observation of its nutritive and wholesome qualities. Its average increase, on boiling in mere water, has been found to be fourfold : with the addition of milk, it is much more.—The good health, which the children have uniformly enjoyed, has been remarkable : several of them, who were weak and sickly at their admission, have since become healthy and vigorous ; to which their new habits of cleanliness and regularity, and the exercise of spinning by hand wheels in an airy apartment, as well as their diet, which is nutritious and plentiful, may probably have conduced. The improvement in their morals and behaviour has been equally satisfactory to the wishes of the promoters of the institution. It is found that, in proportion as the children become skilful and useful, their parents and friends learning their value, become desirous of withdrawing them, because they can employ them to more

advantage.\* This has already been the case of many, and generally has happened in the course of 6 months after they have been received into the school; as the habits of order and industry, which the children acquire there, render them so desirable as apprentices, that, though there has been a difficulty heretofore in finding situations in private families for any parish children, because *they came out of a workhouse*, yet they are now sought for, and the parish is relieved from the expense of their maintenance at a much earlier age, than if they had been kept in the workhouse.

One other very great advantage resulting from this establishment, and from its necessary connexion with the poor of the parish, is, that the gentlemen who have interested themselves in its success, have thereby been induced to take a very active part in the management of the poor; and one of them,

\* Upon a visit to the Lewisham school of industry, I had procured a list of the children employed, and the amount and profit of the work done by each, with a view of inserting it in these notes; but, upon repeating my inquiry a few weeks after, I learn that some of their best hands are gone out, apprentices to trade, or into service, in consequence of improved habits and character; and that there is not one now in the school of the age of 12 years. Even the little weaver, *in the tenth year of his age*, has accepted an *advantageous offer in his own line*, and quitted the school. Circumstances, like these, must always check the progress, and diminish the profits, of manufactories in industry schools; but they show the value and real benefit of those establishments, as nurseries of useful members of society, instructing and enabling the poor to obtain the most useful and acceptable relief,—that which comes from their own industry and good habits. B. 18th April, 1798.

Robert Saunders, Esq. is now serving the office of overseer for his second year. It will be obvious that a greater benefit to the poor, and a considerable saving to the parish, must be the consequences of such an institution. The poor are more happy and better taken care of than they were before : and the saving, from the new system, will hardly be less than £500. a year,

### OBSERVATIONS.

By the preceding account it will appear, how much may, at a very small expence, be effected by a judicious and spirited adoption of one of the measures, directed by the statute 43d Elizabeth. It is needless to observe upon the effects which this establishment has necessarily produced upon the morals, the cleanliness, and the health of the children ; who, being now habituated to industry, instructed in reading, and accustomed to a regular attendance on divine service, are bred up in the knowledge and practice of obedience and reverence to their creator, and of that utility, which he has enjoined as a duty to their fellow-creatures.

Besides the advantage of separating the children from the contagion of those dissolute and profligate characters, which are to be found in all workhouses, the maintaining of them at a less expence, and the educating of them in the habits of industry and virtue (circumstances which apply to the parish children removed from the workhouse to the school

of industry), it should be observed, that a very great relief is also given to the other poor of the parish, by easing the parents of the burthen of maintaining so many of their children, and by giving the mothers profitable employment at home ; a relief, that by improving the circumstances of the cottager, has a just and honourable tendency to reduce the poor's rates.—Establishments, like that at Lewisham, have also the merit of correcting the little pilfering habits of the infant poor, the source of so many vices and crimes in society ; and of preserving them from idleness and bad example, and training them in virtuous and industrious habits, so as to make them blessings to their parents, and useful and valuable members of society.

*22d Feb. 1798.*

## No. XXX.

*Extract from an account of the manner in which the poor have lately been supplied with bread and meat and soup at Birmingham. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

**I**N the beginning of December, 1796, a soup shop was opened by subscription in Peck Lane, Birmingham, for supplying the poor with soup at a reduced price; the extra expence being defrayed by a small subscription among the inhabitants of Birmingham.

This winter, the same subscription was again opened in Colmore Row, on an enlarged and improved plan; and, in December last, notice was given that this soup together with bread, were ready for delivery on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, to families according to their necessities; the price being *one penny for half a pound of household bread, and a quart of soup*. The average quantity of soup so delivered, for three months past, has been 3000 quarts a week, with 1500lb. weight of bread; and this *great relief* to the necessities of the poor, is supplied by a subscription, that does not quite amount to £300.

Before I state the circumstances of a charity which does so much good at so little expence, and which reflects so much credit on its conductor, it will be proper to mention, that, in December, 1795, subscriptions have been opened at Birming-



ham, as at other places, for the relief of the poor, on account of the high price of bread ; that above £1200. had been collected ; and, during that winter, distributed to the poor in bread and potatoes ; but that it had not given them any thing like the benefit, or satisfaction, that they are now receiving from less than a fourth of that sum.

In the ensuing winter, the gentlemen, who had conducted this charity, determined to adopt the example of those, who had prepared soups on Count Rumford's principle, so far varied in the cookery as to be adapted to an English taste ; and upon a subscription of about £300. they sold to the poor a meat soup with fried bread, hot every day from twelve to two, at one penny a quart. The average quantity supplied during that season was 1000 quarts a week.

On the commencement of the present winter, the receipt for the soup was improved ; and the quantity distributed has increased to 3000 quarts a week, half a pound of good wheaten bread being given with each quart of soup ; for a penny ; but no family being allowed to have more than two or three quarts at a time.—The overseers of the poor there, have, to their honour, opened a similar shop near the workhouse at Birmingham ; so that the whole supply may be now calculated at 6000 quarts a week.

The communication of the minute circumstances of a charity, operating so extensively and beneficially, and with so small a fund, may be interesting and useful, not only to manufacturing towns, but to every part of the kingdom.

The average prime cost of the soup, including all expences of house-rent, servants, fuel, &c. is 5*d.* a gallon; of the bread, 6*d.* for 4*lb.*: so that the loss on the 3000 quarts of meat soup, and 1500*lb.* weight of wheaten bread, sold every week, may be set, on an average, at 12*l.* 10*s.* per week. This may possibly receive a little increase from some incidental and extra expences of the institution; but, after allowing for that, it will appear that the subscription of 300*l.* is more than adequate to the supply of 20 weeks: a period, extending from the beginning of December to the middle of the ensuing April.

For making the soup, there are two cast iron boilers of 120 gallons each; and a vessel,\* called a

\* I have extracted from a letter from Mr. Biddle of Birmingham, some account of their mode of using the digester.—The bones are cut into small pieces with an axe, and part of them put into the digester, which is filled two-thirds with water, and the lid screwed down; when the first operation takes place, for two or three hours, with a light weight on the valve. What then remains undissolved is put a second time into the digester, with the rest of the bones, and the same quantity of water, a greater weight being laid on the valve, equal to 40*lb.* or 50*lb.* on the square inch. When the bones are supposed to be nearly dissolved, and the vessel is cool enough to open, the meat is added (part of it being previously fried, to give a flavour to the soup), and the whole boiled together for two or three hours, with only a small pressure on the valve. The gravy is then strained off for use. Of the bones not more than one pound weight in twenty remains undissolved.—Such is the mode of using the digester at Birmingham; in which some skill, and a great degree of attention is required. It seems to me, that for common use, the operation need not be so powerful, nor the liquefaction of the bone so completely effected. The separation of the nutritive part, without an entire dissolution taking place, might be all that is desirable to attain. As the introduction of this invention

*digester*, for previously dissolving to a jelly the animal food that is to be used in it.—The following is the receipt, and the present cost of the materials, for 160 gallons of soup.

|   |    |    |     |
|---|----|----|-----|
| 80lb. of beef, shoulder, bosom, or stick-   | £. | s. | d.  |
| ing pieces, (or sometimes the fore quarter) with three ox's melts, or lungs, given in by the butcher's, and weighing about 16 lb. | —  | 18 | 4   |
| Four legs of beef, weight about 34 lb.  | —  | 3  | 8   |
| Three ox's cheeks, weight about 27 lb.  | —  | 3  | —   |
| 37 quarts of white pease  | —  | 7  | 4   |
| 21 lb. of onions  | —  | 1  | 8   |
| 48 lb. of ground rice   | —  | 10 | —   |
| 12 lb. of salt  | —  | 1  | 3   |
| 6 oz. of black pepper   | —  | 10 | —   |
| 2 oz. ground ginger   | —  | 2  | —   |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of cayenne pepper   | —  | 3  | —   |
| Mint, celery, carrots, and leeks, often sent in as presents, but when purchased   | —  | 1  | —   |
| cost  | —  | —  | —   |
| Cost of materials for 160 gallons of  |    |    |     |
| soup  | —  | 2  | 7 6 |

into common use may be of general benefit, particularly to the poor, by economizing and increasing the plenty of the country, I have had one made on a more simple construction, and not requiring any weight on the valve. It may be seen at Messrs. Jackson and Moser's in Frith-street, Soho. It is intended to be used with a slow and very gentle fire, such as is frequently left on a cottager's hearth at bed time. Some of these digesters, adapted to cottages, and holding about four quarts, will be soon ready for sale at Messieurs Jackson and Moser's, at the price of about 5s. each. B.  
30th April, 1798.

The reader will perceive that the original cost of the materials for 160 gallons of this soup, exclusive of house rent, attendance, fuel, and other incidental expences, does not amount to quite *three pence three farthings* a gallon ;—and that it contains the essence of 147 pounds of meat, 48 pounds of rice, and 37 quarts of pease.—The soup is prepared by previously dissolving the meat and bones in the *digester* : a vessel which has been used at Birmingham with great effect, and is capable of dissolving bones to jelly in the space of a few hours. The gravy is then strained through a hair sieve, or cullender ; and, if any part of the bones remain undissolved, and there is occasion, it undergoes a second operation in the digester. The gravy, having been thus prepared the day before, is divided equally between two boilers, with a sufficient quantity of water, and the pease then put in and boiled, until they are nearly dissolved to a pulp : this will take about two hours. The ground rice is then added (being first mixed with cold water), and is boiled for some time, being constantly kept stirring. Then the celery and carrots (a middle sized bowl full, cut small) with a few leeks, may be put in, and kept boiling about an hour : when the salt, pepper, and ginger, mixed together, may be added to the soup, and the whole will be soon ready for use ; and, before it is distributed, the dried mint is added ; but not boiled in it.



## OBSERVATIONS.

The first object of attention, here, is the comparative extent and benefit of the present system of charity at Birmingham, opposed to that adopted there in December, 1795. The power of giving an increased effect to christian benevolence, by these soups, is one of the advantages, for which this country is indebted to the philanthropy of Count Rumford. Such a plan for the distribution of charity as that adopted in this part of the county of Warwick, has not merely the merit of producing a greater benefit in its effects, but of offering the only efficient and proper means of inducing the lower classes of life, to adopt a better and more nourishing system of diet, than that which they at present possess. The saving, from this new species of cookery, is proportionate to the magnitude of the scale on which it is executed; but its economy is applicable and useful in the narrowest establishment, and in the smallest cottage; and it is the best corrective of that waste of food, for which the English nation is distinguished.—It will occur to the reader, that there is a greater variety of ingredients in this than in other receipts: and that (instead of barley meal, oatmeal, or potatoes) ground-rice is used; which, as far as my experiments go, is preferable to the others; being of a gelatinous nature, and very palatable and nutritive when so used.

I would submit to the consideration of the gen-



tllemen, who, with so much real credit to themselves, have formed and conducted this establishment, whether the second operation in the digester, is necessary or advisable; and whether, in the first operation, the beef bones are not dissolved as far as is proper. To them, and to all other persons who have the merit of taking the management of similar charities, I beg leave also to suggest, that there is much more waste in boiling the soup with a *quick fire*, and without *close covers* to the boilers, than any person can be aware of, who has not attentively made the experiment. Above a fifth of the liquid, and some of the best of the nutriment, is lost by evaporation, where the boiler is imperfectly covered; and the loss is still greater, when, as is sometimes the case, it has no cover at all.

For the preceding information, I am indebted to Mr. Moser, of Frith-street, Soho; who, with the modesty generally attending on merit, has declined the publication of it in his own name.—He has, at my request, been lately making some experiments with the digester: and will soon have some of them adapted to cottages, ready for sale at a moderate price. Those containing four or five quarts, a size proper for a cottager, will not cost above as many shillings,

It is a very gratifying circumstance, that these establishments, for administering to the necessities of the poor, are increasing with advantage and success. For the conduct of one, established in February, 1797, by a respectable committee at Lloyd's

Coffee-house, the public is indebted to Mr. Colquhoun. From this charity, a great number of indigent and distressed persons were fed twice a week, at a very small expence. This has been succeeded by a soup shop, which was opened on the 16th of January, 1798, at No. 53, Brick Lane, Spitalfields; where near 2000 quarts of rich and nutritious soup are now daily distributed, at the price of a penny a quart. To this charity the Committee at Lloyd's Coffee-house has given a very liberal donation. I was present to-day at the distribution of the soup, in Brick Lane, Spitalfields; and was extremely delighted with the *eagerness* and *thankfulness*, with which the poor pressed forward to purchase so seasonable a supply for the relief of their families. An account of this charity will, I hope, be given in the next report.—Another soup shop was opened in February last, in St. George's Fields, at the place lately called the Dog and Duck, upon a similar plan, and nearly on as large a scale; and a third, very little different, was opened on the 3d instant, in Clerkenwell.—From each of these, subscribers have recommendations sent them, to fill up in favour of such poor families, as come within their own knowledge; and they have the satisfaction of doing as much good with a penny, in this mode of distributing alms, as is done with a shilling in the common way of giving charity. These three establishments are earnestly recommended to the attention and protection of the public.

6th March, 1798.

## No. XXXI.

*Extract from an account\* of the provisions made for the benefit of the Duke of Bridgewater's colliers, near Manchester, with observations. By the Rev. THOMAS GISBORNE.*

THE Duke of Bridgewater pays his colliers, in the neighbourhood of Manchester, monthly. He has established shops, and a little market for them; and when his agents pay the wages, the shopkeepers bring in their monthly bills. These the agents discharge, and give to each collier his surplus. Thus the collier always has credit for necessaries and reasonable comforts; and, at the same time, is not able to squander the mass of his gains, to the injury of himself and his family. Debts at public houses are not allowed to be brought in. The butchers and other tradesmen, being the Duke's tenants, dare not be exorbitant in their charges, or fraudulent as to the weight of their commodities. The Duke lets to his colliers their houses at a low rent, and nearly at a price. To the best and pleasantest of these houses, he prefers those colliers, who have been the longest time in his service, if they have behaved well. They are, however, all tenants at will. These circumstances operate as ties and encouragements to good conduct. All the workmen

\* A general view of the situation of the mining poor, compared with that of some other classes of the poor, will be given in the Appendix to this volume.

are bound to contribute to a general sick-club. The Duke's colliers are stationary with him; a neighbouring magistrate informs me, that he hears few complaints from either side; and that the colliers there are more moral than the weavers who are spread over the adjacent country. Some of the Duke's agents are men of a religious cast; and have established Sunday schools for the instruction of the children.

### OBSERVATIONS.

What has been done in this instance is worthy of attention and imitation, as tending to diminish the evils and inconveniences, to which the class of men under consideration is peculiarly exposed. Colliers and miners, however, are so numerous in some parts of England, and are subject to so many and so great disadvantages, that they merit more attention than they have yet received. No persons stand more in need of the advantages of a religious education, and none are so little favoured in that respect, or possess so few means of correcting the vices and infirmities, to which they are peculiarly liable.

Of miners and colliers it is to be observed, that living in large companies, without favourable examples of conduct before them, and being, through the circumstances and mode of their employment, little subject to the control or influence of their employers, they are naturally turbulent, passionate, and rude in manners and character.—

Their gains are large and *uncertain*; and their employment is a species of task-work, the profit of which can very rarely be previously ascertained. This circumstance gives them the wasteful habits of a gamester, leading them to trust, without forethought or apprehension, to the extraordinary success of to-morrow, for the support of their families. Their labour being under ground, liable to subterraneous damp, and attended with strong exertions, they are, almost of necessity, led to the use, in a certain degree, of strong liquors; and thence, by a natural progress, too often proceed to habitual drunkenness.

The first and best corrective, of these evils, would be a religious education. It is obvious to every one, who visits the counties where colliers and miners abound, that their children have not the fair and ordinary advantages of instruction: that placed in a situation of life, in which they can have very little hope of improving by domestic example, they are so disunited from the other classes of the community, as to be, in a great degree, though living in a christian and civilized country, excluded from the common benefits of religion and civilization.

This observation applies to a numerous class of our fellow-subjects: a class, to which education and early habits of religion are particularly necessary; as nothing can have so efficacious a tendency to improve the conduct of men thus circumstanced, as a just sense of revealed religion, and of the rewards and punishments of a future state.



It is likewise of great importance, that colliers and miners, particularly, should be habituated to the desire of acquiring permanent property :\* and, with the surplus of their profits, be enabled and induced to purchase little spots of ground, as objects of cultivation, and employment for their leisure hours. Those miners, who do this in Cornwall (and there are many who in that county, with the surplus of their gains, purchase little spots of ground, chiefly on a leasehold tenure) are in every respect a better class of men.—They are kept from alehouses, by finding, in their own little property, amusement and occupation for their vacant time ; they acquire habits of forethought, because they enjoy the benefit of it : and become orderly and civilized in some measure, because they derive an additional motive to behave aright, and consider their conduct as more subject to observation, in consequence of their being possessed of property.

*9th March, 1798.*

\* Richard Bettany of Dillorn, in Staffordshire, one of the colliers there, had been very much addicted to the use of profane language. Upon the Dillorn inclosure taking place, he received the allotment of a cottage and land : he was told that, in case of swearing, he must *now* be treated as a gentleman, and pay accordingly ; his acquired consequence amended him, and he determined, and kept his resolution, to leave off swearing.—I have this anecdote from Mr. Holliday ; who authorises me to say, that Bettany, at no period, not even in the course of a painful disorder which terminated his life at the age of 77, applied for any parochial relief, or received any except from the kindness of the overseer : who, for a short time before his death, voluntarily contributed half the expence of the periodical attendance of a surgeon for him once or twice a week. B.

*24th March, 1798.*

## No. XXXII.

*Extract from the Rev. Mr. Gilpin's account of the  
new poor-house at Boldre, in Hampshire. By the  
BISHOP of DURHAM.*

**T**HE old poor-house of Boldre being a wretched place, and having been managed at a great expence, it was determined at a vestry, held in the year 1792, to build a new one on a better site: to put in a respectable master and mistress; and to give the overlooking of it to a monthly committee of the gentlemen and farmers of the parish.

Accordingly they borrowed the sum of £800. and bought a piece of ground, about two acres and an half; elevated, dry, and airy; here they erected the house, at a little distance from the road; and yet near enough to be under the constant eye of observation. It is built substantially of brick; single, that the air may have a free passage through it, and extending about 82 feet in front, and 20 in breadth. These dimensions give an excellent work-room on the right, as you enter; and, on the left, a kitchen and back kitchen: the master's room, which is also the committee room, about 18 feet by 14, occupies the centre, and has a window on one side, inspecting the work-room; and another, on the opposite side, inspecting the kitchen. Above stairs, the sleeping chambers are separated nearly as those are below: only, as there are commonly more

women and children in a poorhouse than men, a room at the end of the men's apartment is taken off for a sick room, with a separate staircase. Over the chambers are excellent garrets; behind the kitchen part of the house, are the pantries and other conveniences, among which is a store-room 30 feet long.

The ground between the house and the road, which is a falling space of about 60 yards, is divided, first into a dry convenient play yard for the children; and the remainder, about half an acre, running down to the road, is a garden; the larger garden, which is an acre, lies behind the house.

The house being finished,\* and sufficiently dry, the inhabitants of the old house, consisting of 9 or 10 men and women, and between 20 and 30 children, were brought into it, on the 19th of May, 1793; and the whole put under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Salter, who are both of them well acquainted with the whole business of spinning and weaving. He has set up a couple of looms, and a number of spinning wheels, and generally presides over this part of the business himself; Mrs. Salter attending to the economy and management of the house. The inhabitants are all employed according to their capacities; some of the old women in cooking, mending, and washing; the old men in the garden; the children, and some

\* The whole expence was nearly as follows: price of the four acres of ground, including two gardens and a close, 250*l.*; of the buildings 1000*l.* and of furniture, &c. &c. 350*l.*: in all 1600*l.* 5th April, 1798.

of the women, in spinning and weaving: children even of four or five years of age are employed, and earn about a penny a-day. In summer, they come into the work-room at six; in winter as soon as it is light. At breakfast they have an hour's respite, and the same at dinner. They have all tasks; but so easy, that if they work hard, they can finish them by two in the afternoon; and, without any exertion, by six.

Their table of diet is as follows:—on Sunday, meat, with plenty of vegetables and bread; the allowance of which is four ounces for grown persons, and three for children; on Monday, the remains of Sunday's dinner warmed, with vegetables and bread; on Tuesday, each grown person has a pound of pudding, and the children three quarters of a pound; on Wednesday, the same as on Sunday; on Thursday the same as on Monday; on Friday, ox-head stew with vegetables and bread; on Saturday, a clearance is made of all the remains in the house; and, if they fall short, the deficiency is made up with bread and cheese. For breakfast, beef broth, or milk porridge and bread are provided; except for a few old women, who, having been in the habit of drinking tea all their lifetime, are allowed that indulgence, on account of their good behaviour. At supper, the regular meal is six ounces of bread, and an ounce of cheese for every grown person; and for children, four ounces of bread, and three quarters of an ounce of cheese; this is sometimes varied with potatoes, which the children like better. The children, in-



cluding all under the age of 15 years, sit at one table, and the grown persons at another. Every thing is good in its kind ; the children seldom eat up all that is provided, and the remainder is fried up again the next day among the remains. During the late scarcity of bread corn, Mrs. Salter used a less proportion of wheat, and a larger of potatoes, particularly for supper; and during the winter of the year 1795, she boiled potatoes and onions, and mixing them well together, fried them with a little lard; the people were in general fonder of this dish than of their usual meal.

Four bushels and a half of malt are allowed each month for beer. I must add, that the master and mistress generally fare as the family does, though it is not required by the committee.

The clothing of the poor is equally good ; every one has a new suit for Sunday, generally spun and woven in the house. It is carefully hung up at night, and the old clothes produced for the week.

Thus the poor are well lodged, well fed, and well clothed ; and yet, (on deducting their earnings), at *less than half the expence\** that they cost the parish

\* The average weekly expence for the preceding year, taken from Mr. Salter's book, is as follows :

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
|  | s. | d. |
| Average expence of diet per week for each individual, exclusive of the produce of the garden                     | 1  | 8  |
| Average produce of each individual's labour for sale, exclusive of work in the garden, about the houses, &c. &c. | 0  | 11 |
| Average cost of each individual per week,  | 0  | 9  |
| 5th April, 1798.   |    |    |



before ; being about ninepence a head weekly ; whereas in the old house, with continual complaint, the allowance was double that ; though provisions, at that time, were much cheaper than they are now.

In the article of clothing, much more is saved. Though the poor are now so decently clad, yet, by care and management, the whole expence of the clothing in the year 1795, including shoes, amounted only to 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* ; whereas the expence of clothing the poor in the old house, did not amount to less, one year with another, than 70*l.* annually. In one year it reached 90*l.* ; for as no care was taken to keep the clothes in repair, nor any distinction made between old and new, they were always in rags, and yet always craving for new clothes.

Another article of saving is in the health of the poor ; arising from the airiness and cleanliness of the present house, the good clothing, the wholesomeness and plenty of provisions, and from the care that is taken to keep the family clean. No epidemical, nor indeed any disorder has appeared among them, since the new house has been opened.

By this alteration in the management of the house, a saving in the poor's rates of the parish was made in the year 1795, of 157*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* notwithstanding the then advanced price of provisions, and the variety of expences incident to a new establishment ; and the average diminution in the rates, from Easter 1793 to the present time, has been

164*l*. a year. The gardens belonging to the house are in high cultivation, and bear such quantities of potatoës and cabbages, the chief vegetables used in the family, that in general they are abundantly supplied. During the scarcity of the year 1795, they were obliged, indëed, to purchase potatoes.

But nothing is so delightful in the institution, as the cheerfulness with which every thing is conducted. The old women, who behave well, have their little indulgencies of tea and snuff; and the men, of tobacco. The children's tasks are made pleasing to them, by little gratuities out of their earnings. The master has the art of turning even their play hours to use, and yet making them more happy,\* than if they were left to themselves.

Punishment in Boldre workhouse is rare and gentle; and consists chiefly in confining the delinquent in a room by himself, and abridging him of a meal: if, however, the master is under the

\* The brevity of these reports does not allow me to enter into the detail of Mr. Salter's management of the children. The eagerness with which they perform their tasks early, in hopes of being of a party *entrusted* with a letter, or *some commission of importance*, to a distant part of the parish, and indeed every part of Mr. Gilpin's detail, would afford satisfaction and information to the reader. It is a book that should be read by every master of a parish workhouse, and by every person concerned in the management of the poor. At the request of the committee, Mr. Gilpin has permitted it, with some additions, to be reprinted for publication. It is sold by Messieurs Cadell and Davies, in the Strand, at the price of 3*s*. a dozen, or 3*d*. each: and is recommended to those, who interest themselves in the welfare of the poor, as a proper book to be given to overseers of the poor, and to masters of workhouses. 10th May, 1798.

necessity of correcting a boy corporally, the punishment is always inflicted in the presence of some respectable person.—For devotion and religious instruction, the family assembles in the kitchen, every morning when the bell rings for breakfast. The master reads, and generally explains, some easy and practical part of the New Testament: after which they all join in prayer. On Sunday morning and evening, these exercises are enlarged, and accompanied with singing hymns, in which all the children join. They regularly attend church on Sundays: and it is a pleasing sight to see so many well clothed figures, happy faces, and healthy countenances issuing from a parish workhouse. In the afternoon, on Sunday, the children attend the school, where they are catechized with the other children of the neighbourhood: the old people also attend with them.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The advantages of a well regulated poorhouse consists in the superior comfort of the aged, the education of the young, the reform of the dissolute, and the diminution of poor's rates. All these benefits have attended the new regulation of the poorhouse at Boldre; so that a happy and useful society has been thereby formed out of the very dregs of the parish. The old people having all their wants supplied, and their wishes attended to, feel themselves more comfortable than they ever did before; and are glad to render cheerfully,

in return, what little services they can : the children, \* bred to industry and Christian virtue, promise to become useful members of society ; and the penitence and good conduct of some persons in the house, who, for want of education and early good habits, had been involved in idleness and profligacy, do infinite credit to the institution. I have only to add, that the poor's rate has been reduced from 654*l.* 12*s.* to 490*l.*† a-year, at the same

\* It should be observed that, in Boldre workhouse, the children are kept separate and distinct from the adults ; and that Mr. Gilpin has founded a school of industry and education, that provides for a great many of the children of the poor in that parish. Nothing less than such circumstances, with vey good management, could render a poor-house, as at Boldre, a fit residence for children. The common occurrences of a parish will make it necessary to receive into a poor-house those whom idleness and vice have made very improper examples for youth ; and children in workhouses are generally the subject of uneasiness and unpleasantness to the aged poor, who are too frequently the butt and sport of the thoughtless and uneducated little creatures which are to be found in most poor-houses. If all of them, above seven years of age, were to be removed from the workhouse to some cottage, and there boarded, as in a parish school, at a certain sum (the mistress having the benefit of their work) they would be more cheaply kept, and better educated ; a parochial school might thereby be provided, and a deserving family supported ; they would also get out at an earlier age, and into better services, than they do now ; the objection to taking children into any family, out of a poorhouse, being general and almost insurmountable.—I am persuaned that a workhouse, if well conducted, might be made as comfortable a retreat to the aged poor, who have no domestic connections, as any charitable foundation whatever ; and that, at less than the present expence. *B. 7th April, 1798.*

† Since the publication of the extract respecting Boldre workhouse, I have had the pleasure of visiting it, and should have been able to have confirmed, by my own testimony, the correctness of the facts stated, if it had not been wholly unnecessary.—The net expences of the preceding year, ending the 25th March 1798, are only 451*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* Instead



time that the comfort and happiness, the industry, and the moral and religious habits of the poor, and in its consequences of the whole parish, have been increased, with a reasonable confidence of still greater improvement and saving to the parish, by its effects and example on the rising generation.

*10th March, 1798.*

of four rates, which have been usually collected, only three will be wanted this year; and it is expected that, in future, two rates and a half will be sufficient.—Mr. Salter has just laid before the parish the accounts of the last five years, in which he has had the management of Boldre workhouse. During that period (while the increased price of provisions and other circumstances have enhanced the rates throughout the kingdom) there has been a saving to the parish of Boldre, that has exceeded all expectation.—The clothes, provisions, and cash in hand at Easter amounted to 181*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* There has been expended in stock, furniture, and permanent improvement and accommodation, during that period, 800*l.*; and yet the amount of the rates during those five years is less by 338*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* than that of the preceding five years. The account stands thus:

|                                     | <i>£.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash, &c. in hand                   | 181       | 17        | 6         |
| Stock; furniture, improvements, &c. | 800       | 0         | 0         |
| Diminution in amount of rates       | 338       | 8         | 8         |
| Total saving in five years          | 1320      | 6         | 2         |

At the same time the comforts of the poor have been much increased, and their moral and religious habits greatly improved. B. *1st May, 1798.*



## No. XXXIX.

*Extract from an account of a parish dinner for poor children, at Epping. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

AT Epping, in the county of Essex, where there is a school of industry for the employment of children, an ordinary was, on the recommendation of Mr. Conyers, opened in October last ; and a general dinner has been provided on week days, for any children of that place, whose parents desire it, on the following terms.

The price of the ordinary is sixpence a week for each child: they dine at table in a regular manner at one o'clock, in a room which adjoins to, but is unconnected with, the rooms of the workhouse ; and which, during the rest of the day, has been used as a spinning school. Grace is regularly and decently said before and after dinner ; and a voluntary expression of thanks and obligation to the mistress, for the good dinner she has provided them, generally precedes their quitting the room. Their table of diet is, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, baked rice pudding ; on Tuesday and Saturday, beef stew soup ; and on Thursday pease soup. They are allowed to eat as much as they please ; and their healthy countenances and decent behaviour evidence the plenty and comfort of their meal. The same dinner is also given, in another room, to the parish children and the other persons

in the poor-house. The number of those who partook of it, in the week, from the 12th to the 17th of the preceding month of February, was 77; the expence of that week's dinner for the materials merely and their bread (but without reckoning for dressing and attendance) being 1*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.* which is less than a penny a head each day.

A particular account of this dinner may be useful; as it will prove that what is provided for them is good in quality, and sufficient in quantity; and as it will serve to explain to others, how they may, *with some attention and very little expence*, contribute greatly to the comfort, the health, and the good habits of the children in their own neighbourhoods.

The following is an account of the week's fare of 77 persons, from Monday the 12th to Saturday the 17th of February, 1798, both days inclusive, with the expence of each article.

MONDAY. *Baked rice pudding.*

|                           | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |       |              |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 20 lb. and a half of rice | -         | 2         | 6½    |              |
| 3 lb. of suet             | -         | 1         | 6     |              |
| 6 gallons of milk         | -         | 1         | 3     |              |
| Salt and allspice         | -         | 0         | 2½    | <i>s. d.</i> |
|                           |           |           | <hr/> | 5 6          |

N. B. The rice is soaked in the milk the night before baking, and produces, with the other materials, about 80 lb. weight of pudding.

TUESDAY. *Beef stew and soup.*

|            | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Ox's cheek | 1         | 6         |

|  | £. | s. | d.               |
|--|----|----|------------------|
| Brought forward  |    | 5  | 6                |
|  | s. | d. |                  |
| 2 quarts of Scotch barley  | -  | 4  | $\frac{1}{2}$    |
| 3 quarts of pease  | -  | 10 | $\frac{1}{4}$    |
| 1 quart of oatmeal   | -  | 2  | $\frac{1}{4}$    |
| 1 peck of potatoes   | -  | 3  |                  |
| Pepper, salt, and allspice   | -  | 6  | $\frac{1}{4}$    |
|  |    | 3  | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| WEDNESDAY. <i>Baked rice pudding,</i><br>as on Monday,   | -  | 5  | 6                |
| THURSDAY. <i>Pease soup.</i>   |    |    |                  |
| 4 lb. of pork  | -  | 1  | 8                |
| 6 quarts of pease  | -  | 1  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 2 quarts of oatmeal  | -  | 4  | $\frac{1}{2}$    |
| Pepper, salt, and allspice   | -  | 6  | $\frac{1}{4}$    |
|  |    | 4  | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| FRIDAY. <i>Baked rice pudding,</i> as before   |    | 5  | 6                |
| SATURDAY. <i>Beef stew and soup.</i>   |    |    |                  |
| 5 lb. and a half of beef   | -  | 2  | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 2 quarts of pease  | -  | 7  | $\frac{1}{2}$    |
| 2 quarts of Scotch barley  | -  | 4  | $\frac{1}{2}$    |
| Pepper, salt, and allspice   | -  | 6  | $\frac{1}{4}$    |
|  |    | 3  | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| Onions, mint, and carrots for the week   |    | 1  | 0                |
| A quarter of a pound of bread, allowed on<br>each of the three soup days; being<br>58 lb. a week | -  | 4  | 10               |
| Six days dinners for 77 persons  | -  | 1  | 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| The children are generally those whose behaviour   |    |    |                  |

is approved, and who are paid for by the week ; but any others, in cleanly and decent order, are allowed to dine at the same rate, when there is room. In case of sickness they may send for their dinners home.—The common labourers find they can maintain their children in this manner much better, and a great deal cheaper, than in the usual way of leaving them to consume at home a great deal of white bread, with very little comfort ; for example, a labourer who has four children finds that, by appropriating 2s. a week out of his earnings, all his four children have a plentiful, regular, and decent meal, six days in the week ; with twice the benefit to them, that they could have possibly derived from 2s. worth of white bread, eaten in the usual solitary, uncivilized, and comfortless manner.

The situation of Epping, a large market town, with a surrounding forest, the scene and object of petty thefts, and a public road through it, was not very favourable to the industry and regular habits of the poor ; nor was their usual dinner, of a hunch of bread, part to be swallowed with a little water as they went along (the other part being most frequently thrown away) conducive either to their health, or to habits of economy. It is therefore a most pleasing circumstance to state, that, within one month after this dinner had been regularly provided at Epping, the appearance and manners of the poor children there were totally altered. Their sallow countenances had acquired a healthful complexion and tone, from the daily and regular supply of a plentiful meal ; and their manners, by the

habits of an orderly table regularly served and attended, were improved and meliorated. To those, who had been confined by illness, this dinner has proved of particular service ; as it has afforded them the means of re-establishment in a state of convalescence ; a period, when the poor are subject to great disadvantages, and are frequently a long time recovering their health and strength, because they are not provided with regular and nourishing food. — Four months have now passed since the children at Epping have been thus assembled once a day, at a decent and civilized table. I have attended it to-day, and with very great satisfaction have beheld the decency, the cheerfulness, and the general neatness of all the members of this little society ; and, being able to add my own testimony to the information I have received, I can say, that such effects appear to have been already produced on the health and good order of these little children, as must be extremely gratifying to every one, who interests himself in the welfare of his fellow-creatures.

One consequence of this establishment has been, that several labourers who have large families, and are industrious and deserving, have found themselves exonerated of a great part of the maintenance of their children by their richer neighbours ; who each take some of these little ones, in their turn, under protection, and subscribe for them to the public dinner. This contributes to increase that mutual good will and connection, which *ought* to subsist between the rich and the poor ; and makes the one



mindful of his duty, and the other satisfied with his condition.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The benefits of this establishment are many and various. It converts benevolence to better purposes, and into better channels than those through which it commonly flows; it brings the children of the poor into notice, teaching them regular habits, and the desire of profiting by their own industry; and it not only supplies the persons in the workhouse, but several poor families that are out of it, with sufficient food, comfortably, and at a very cheap rate. Where a labourer requires relief out of the house, the overseer, if he sees cause, directs messes of the parish dinner, proportionate to the family, to be sent to his house; and from fifteen to twenty indigent families are supplied in this manner with a good meal at home every day. This affords much more effectual relief, and at less expence to the parish, than the little pittance of money, which is usually given, and which they have not means to make an advantageous use of. The poor, who are in the workhouse, are fed from the same kitchen, but dine in a separate and distant part of the house: I except those, who are out on farmer's work, and who take their luncheon of bread and cheese with them; reserving what is both gratifying and salutary to them, their right to the same hot meal for

supper, as the others have had at dinner. There are at present 17 children, 5 old people, and 23 of middle age, in all 45 persons, in the poor-house. I have had the pleasure of seeing them also at their dinner to-day, and I thought they had as much appearance of comfort, as could be expected for the residents of a workhouse ; who are generally persons suffering under some infirmity of mind or body, and are without prospect of improving their condition.

It is a melancholy truth, and the concealment will prevent the correction of the evil, that the poor of England, in a country of plenty, are not properly fed. For the growth of youth, and for the support of labour, in our northern climate, the stomach requires to be replenished at stated times ; and with something different from bread and indifferent beer, or water ; a diet, which is now become a great deal too general, and is as little favourable to economy as to health. The misfortune arises partly from themselves, as far as it is founded in prejudice, and in ignorance of their own interest ; but, if it is in the power of the other classes of society to correct the evil, and, by gradual and gentle means, to give them a better and more wholesome system of food, the *fault*, I will venture to say the *crime*, is theirs, who leave an important act undone, which it is their duty, and in their power, to do. The example of what has been effected by Mr. Conyers at Epping, and by Lord Winchilsea at Oakham, is imitable and applicable throughout every part of the kingdom. The expence is trivial

the trouble inconsiderable ; and, if it were generally adopted, the rising generation would carry with them into life more regular habits, and more vigorous health, and better stamina, than do now, in general, belong to the lower classes of society. I therefore conclude, with earnestly recommending it to the public, as the object of example and imitation.

*3d March, 1798.*

## No. XXXIV.

*Extract from an account of a mode adopted in the parish of Hadham in the county of Hertford, for supplying the poor with flour of the best quality, and at a reasonable rate. By the Rev. Dr. HAMILTON.*

**D**URING the whole of the last autumn complaints were made, throughout the parish and neighbourhood of Hadham, of the great difference in the proportional price of wheat at the markets, and of flour as sold at the mill, or in the shops. I was very sensible of the grounds for discontent, both in the sellers of wheat, and the purchasers of flour; and, as a remedy for the grievance, I determined to procure, from time to time, a sufficient quantity of good wheat from the market, (having prevailed on a very respectable miller in the neighbourhood, to undertake to grind for me as much as I should require) by which means I might be able to supply the poor of the whole parish with good flour, and at a reasonable price. This has been done for these last three months, and is still in practice, giving very great satisfaction to the poor, who are the purchasers.

My first purchase was as follows:

|                                       | £. | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 110 bushels of wheat                  | 30 | 4  | 0  |
| Grinding, dressing, and bringing home | 1  | 12 | 3  |
| Total                                 | 31 | 16 | 3  |

## PRODUCE.

|  | £.    | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| 340 pecks and 3 lb. of flour, at 1s. 9d. per |       |    |    |
| peck - - - - -                               | 30    | 2  | 5  |
| 18 strikes of pollard, at 1s. 6d. per        |       |    |    |
| strike - - - - -                             | 1     | 7  | 0  |
| 2 quarters and 4 bushels of bran, at 8s.     |       |    |    |
| per quarter - - - - -                        | 1     | 0  | 0  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
|  | 32    | 9  | 5  |
| Prime cost                                   | 31    | 16 | 3  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
| Profit - - - - -                             |       | 13 | 2  |

This accommodation to the poor has been effected without any expence, except the advance of £40. and with very little trouble. At the parish workhouse there is a large vacant room, where the sacks of flour are deposited, as they come from the mill ; and, twice in the week, my servant attends two hours, with the master of the workhouse, in the flour chamber ; and the poor are, with great convenience, thus served with the best wheat flour, and with full measure.

The report which I have just received from my agent is, that he has sold, during the fortnight about 40 sacks, at 1s. a bushel under the shop price ; the saving upon which, to the poor who are purchasers, amounts to £5. per week : he is not at present able to tell exactly what the profit or loss is ; but he believes it is not much either way. Wheat too has been rising almost every week for some time ; and



probably he must raise his price one penny in the peck. His calculation, as to the load of wheat which he has just bought, is as follows :

|                        |   |   | £.    | s. | d. |
|------------------------|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Price of the load      | - | - | 12    | 0  | 0  |
| Grinding ditto         | - | - | 0     | 8  | 0  |
| Carriage from the mill | - | - | 0     | 3  | 9  |
|                        |   |   | <hr/> |    |    |
|                        |   |   | 12    | 11 | 9  |

### PRODUCE.

|                                  |   |       |    |   |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|----|---|
| 124 pecks of flour, at 1s. 10d.  | - | 11    | 7  | 4 |
| 8 strikes of pollard, at 1s. 6d. | - | 0     | 12 | 0 |
| 1 quarter of bran, at 8s.        | - | 0     | 8  | 0 |
|                                  |   | <hr/> |    |   |
|                                  |   | 12    | 7  | 4 |
| Loss                             |   | 0     | 4  | 5 |
|                                  |   | <hr/> |    |   |
|                                  |   | 12    | 11 | 9 |

### OBSERVATIONS.

By these means the poor are enabled to purchase their flour, with a saving of at least 4d. in every peck, exclusive of the benefit of having it of the best sort, and full measure ;\* which, at £5. per

\* In confirmation of Dr. Hamilton's observation, Mr. Burdon allows me to add, that in the south division of East-ington ward in the county of Durham, a strict inspection of weights and scales having lately taken place by order of the magistrates, the deficiency discovered in the smaller shops, was such (as appears by the statement of the chief constable who made the examination) as had occasioned a

week (the gain on twenty sacks) amounts to £260. per annum ; being two-thirds of the whole poor's-rate of the parish of Hadham. This plan gives such general satisfaction, that it will probably be soon adopted in the adjoining parishes: the poor of which have been, in some instances, supplied from my stock. It is also beneficial to the other classes of life, as well as to the poor ; the miller, upon this flour being sold, at first reduced his price from 8s. 8d. a bushel, to 8s. 4d. ; and he has not raised it for the last two months, though the price of wheat is considerably advanced during that period.

Every thing that can be done, to enable the poor to procure the necessaries of life, at a moderate rate, of full measure, and of good quality, is of the utmost importance. It has been the misfortune of this country, that, in every article of food, the profits of the speculator interfere between the growth and the consumption ; and, in some instances, increase the price to nearly double. If the farmer would supply his labourer with flour, potatoes, bacon, and cheese,\* at prime cost, he would enable

loss to the poor of that district, though small and by no means populous, amounting to not less than £500. a year. B. 4th May, 1798.

\* It would be a very desirable thing that the poor should be able to supply themselves with beer of their own brewing, without being obliged always to recur to the alehouse. I am aware of the disadvantage of brewing in small quantities ; but that might be compensated for by great advantages, and by the superior flavour of beer *brewed and drank at home*.—The following receipt is according to the proportions, used in the House of Industry, at Shrewsbury. To half a bushel of malt, add four pounds of treacle, and three quarters of a pound of hops ; this will make twenty-five gallons of beer ;

him to maintain his family much better, and at less expence, and thereby prevent the increase of the poor's rate; he would attach him to his service, and put an end to the old complaint of the "*rambling unsettled disposition of the poor*;" he would also keep down the price of labour, which is necessarily increased on account of the disadvantageous situation, in which the labourer is placed as to the purchase of every necessary of life. In short, the farmer would do his labourer much good, and himself more.

13th March, 1798.

the cost of which (supposing the value of the grains to be only equal to the expence of fuel) would be 2d. a gallon, where the materials were purchased to the best advantage; and, when bought at the retail shop, about 3d. I have tried the receipt, and found the beer very good: it was fit for use in a fortnight; but it is not calculated for keeping, particularly in warm weather. B. 27th March, 1798.

## No. XXXV.

*Extract from an account of two schools founded by the  
Rev. Mr. GILPIN at Boldre in Hampshire. By  
Sir ROBERT HARVEY, Bart.*

THE two schools at Boldre in the New Forest were established and opened on the first of July, 1791, by the Rev. Mr. Gilpin; one for twenty boys, the other for twenty girls, to be selected from the children of the day-labouring poor of the parish; a preference being given (in order to encourage reading) to children who have learnt to read a chapter in the Testament: but, if the prescribed number of such scholars cannot be found, the deficiency is supplied by such children as cannot read.

Sixty-three boys and fifty nine girls have already been admitted, including those at present in the schools. Their attendance commences at nine o'clock, when all the scholars are assembled for prayers. From twelve to one is allowed for dinner, which the children bring with them to school; they are dismissed in summer at five, and in winter at four o'clock; except on Saturdays, when the school breaks up at twelve. If any one is absent, or is beyond the fixed time, without a proper excuse, such child is punished by an hour's confinement and employment, at noon in winter, and

in the evening in summer : and if the children were to be kept at home, so as to continue absent without leave (which leave is to be entered in a book for inspection of the visitors) they would be dismissed the school, and their places filled up by such as would attend and make a better use of their time. As to vacation, a week is allowed at Whitsuntide, a fortnight at Christmas, and a month at harvest, in order to give them an opportunity of benefiting by harvest work.

The girls are taught to read, knit, spin, sew, and mend their own clothes, so as to fit them to be useful daughters, and good wives : the boys (besides being improved in their reading) are instructed in writing and arithmetic ; in the first, so far as to write a legible hand, for which one copy a day is thought sufficient ; and in arithmetic, so far as the four first rules, and particularly in the tables that belong to those rules.

No precise time is fixed for admission ; in order that the children in the parish may be encouraged to an early proficiency in reading, as the qualification for a place in the school ; nor is any precise time fixed for the removal of either the boys or girls : as it is presumed that as soon as they are made *really useful*, their parents will wish to take them away, and thereby room will be left for the admission of other children. They usually come from seven to nine years of age, and quit the school at thirteen or fourteen. As an incitement to industry, a separate account is kept of the produce of each girl's sale-work ; and such produce is laid out



for them, in clothes and necessities, at the end of the year. Petty offences are punished by a little extra confinement in play hours ; but no corporal correction is allowed, except for lying, swearing, stealing, indecent language, or immorality.

At the end of November, the annual account of the work of the girls is made up ; and, from thence to Christmas, their working hours are employed, *gratis*, in making up shirts and shifts for the children in the school, and in knitting stockings (a pair each for the boys and girls) the worsted for which is given them.—At the end of the year all the children attend at the vicarage ; where their clothes are examined ; if there has been neglect on their part, it is noticed : and additions are, at the same time, made to their clothing.

The great object of the founder of these schools is to promote in these children the *knowledge and practice* of religion ; in order that they may be able therein to instruct their own children, when they have families ; an instruction, that, from local circumstances, is much wanted in the neighbourhood of the New Forest. For this purpose, Mr. Gilpin has drawn up an easy explanation of the duties of religion,\* by way of question and answer. This the children are taught to repeat, as well as their

\* This explanation of the duties of religion would be a very useful book in all parochial schools. Mr. Gilpin has complied with a request of having a cheap edition of it sold by Messrs. Cadell and Davies, in the Strand. I trust it will prove of great service, in opening and improving the minds of parish children, by religious and moral instruction. B. 30th April, 1798.

catechism, and are examined in it on Tuesday and Friday after dinner, and on Sunday afternoon.

In the course of a visit to-day at the schools, I had the pleasure of observing the progrees of the boys in arithmetic and writing, of the girls in reading and work, and of all of them in decency and propriety of deportment. I heard part of Mr. Gilpin's explanation of the duties of religion read in the school: and was extremely struck with their attention, and apparent intelligence as to what was read. The manner contributed to fix the sense in their minds: the mistress first read the question; and then each girl, in turn, the answer; and I am much deceived by appearances, and extremely mistaken in my conjectures, if the religious instruction, which they are now receiving at an early age, is not so fixed and imprinted in their minds, as to remain a permanent blessing to the latest hour of their lives, and to descend as an hereditary benefit to their children.

The annual expence of this useful establishment does not exceed 40 guineas a year. The master, who lives in the house, has for salary and finding fuel, &c. 21*l.* a year, and the habitation and garden. The mistress lives in the village; she has 10 guineas a year: and Mr. Gilpin's donations of clothing to the children: and some other incidental expenses, amount to nearly 10 guineas a year more.

The school house is a neat brick building, with the boys' school at the end next the road; and, at the other, the dwelling house, comprizing the school of the girls, and looking into the garden. It is built

on a healthy and beautiful situation, with a gradual descent to Lymington river. It cost 210*l*. On the walls of the school room are various texts of scripture inscribed in tablets. The children stand round the table at particular times, and read them over, with a view of imprinting on their memory some of the most useful precepts in the Testament.

For the permanent endowment of these schools, after his death, Mr. Gilpin proposes to provide by the sale of his Drawings and Sketches, which, when I was there, he had formed for that purpose into eighty-nine lots, each lot containing several Drawings. How valuable an addition they will make to the collections of the artist, the connoisseur, and the lover of the fine arts, it will be unnecessary and presumptuous in me to endeavour to explain. The value of the Drawings, enhanced by the object to which the produce is destined to be applied, must render them an enviable possession to every one, whenever (in consequence of that event, which the friends of humanity hope may be long delayed) they shall be offered to the public.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The benefit of such schools, as those founded by Mr. Gilpin at Boldre, is important in every situation, and at all times; but, in the New Forest, where the children of the poor have too much disposition to partake of the natural wildness of the place, they are peculiarly necessary and beneficial.

In point of justice it is due to the poor of Boldre to observe, that they are very sensible of its utility, and very desirous that their children may participate of the benefit of it. The requisite qualification of some progress in reading, has contributed to a general advancement of learning and civilization in the parish, and (which is of great use) to the support of several little schools there for the first rudiments of instruction.—I have only to add my earnest wish, that these schools may long flourish, according to the benevolent will of the founder; and that his example may produce many imitators, in every part of the kingdom.

*5th April, 1798.*

## No. XXXVI.

*Extract from an account of a female friendly society,  
at Empingham, in the county of Rutland. By the  
Rev. ROBERT BLYTHE.*

AT Empingham, near Stamford, the following female friendly society for girls was established on the 1st of January, 1798; and sixteen girls were immediately admitted at the desire of their parents.

Female children, capable of spinning, knitting, or of any other profitable employ, which in that neighbourhood has been extremely increased by the society of industry there, subscribe to the general fund one half-penny a day, out of their earnings. This is to be accumulated by compound interest, and to form a fund, out of which each subscriber, upon her marriage, is, after a contribution of fourteen years, entitled to receive two guineas; and, upon the birth of each child born in wedlock eight months or more after the expiration of the fourteen years contribution, the like sum of two guineas.

Girls are not permitted to subscribe until seven years of age; and if any girl dies \* under twenty-

\* It is submitted to consideration, whether it might not be better that there should be no repayment of the contribution in case of death; but that, instead of it, the period of contribution should be proportionably shortened; so as



one or before the expiration of the fourteen years of her subscription, the amount of her contribution, but without interest, is paid to her representatives at the expiration of the current half year : and if any subscriber, for fourteen years or upwards, continues unmarried till the age of fifty years, she is then entitled to two guineas a year for life.

### OBSERVATIONS.

An establishment of this nature is only adapted to those parts of England, in which the industry of the children of the poor has been, of late, so successfully and beneficially excited : it is more peculiarly applicable to places where schools of industry, with a dinner for the children, are established, as by Lord Winchilsea at Oakham, and by Mr. Conyers at Epping ; for the mistress may there, regularly and without any trouble, deduct the subscriptions from their weekly pay.—The probable consequences of such female friendly societies are that girls, so contributing *out of their own earnings* to a provision for their future life, will learn to set a higher value on their own characters, and will become examples of virtue and good conduct ; and that, possessing the double advantage of a certain provisional assistance at periods when it is peculiarly wanted by the poor, and of habits of exertion to entitle the subscriber to the donation, upon her marriage, after a contribution of ten, or twelve (instead of fourteen) years.

and economy insensibly acquired during their youth, they will become objects of attention to all the well disposed young men in the neighbourhood, and will be more likely to marry early, and to continue in a course of virtue and industry.

*9th March, 1798.*

## No. XXXVII.

*Extract from an account of a school of industry for sixty girls, at Bamburgh Castle. By the Rev. R. G. BOUYER.*

SIXTY poor girls, elected from the township and neighbourhood of Bamburgh in the county of Northumberland, are taught to spin jersey and flax, to knit, to sew, and to mark; and are also instructed in religion, psalmody, reading, writing, and the elementary parts of arithmetic. None are admitted under the age of five years. Twelve of the youngest are only taught reading and knitting; the remainder are divided into two sets (of twenty-four each, when the school is complete) which are alternately employed for a week at a time in two rooms, superintended each by a different mistress.

The lower room is about forty feet long, twenty feet broad, and above twenty feet high. This is wholly appropriated to spinning; the jersey spinners occupying the floor with twelve wheels and a large reel; and the flax spinners employing the like number of foot wheels, on an open gallery about seven feet high, erected for that purpose along one side of the room, so that the mistress has a full view of the whole number at once. These are again subdivided, so as to work three days in the week on the gallery, and the other three on the floor.

The upper room, for sewing and knitting, is

about eighteen feet square ; it is high and well lighted on three sides. Here the youngest girls do no other work than knitting: the twenty-four eldest sew in the morning, and knit in the afternoon.

Besides the two mistresses attending these two rooms, a master is employed, in a smaller room near the sewing school, in their instruction as above mentioned. For this purpose, the whole number is divided into six classes, of ten scholars each ; these classes, being taken in rotation from the works, and remaining with him each one hour a day. He likewise reads an appropriate form of prayers to the whole school every morning, and keeps the account of their absences, and of the after mentioned tickets. On Sundays the scholars of both schools assemble in the boys' school, where a preparatory form of prayer is used, and a psalm sung ; after which they go down in procession with their masters and mistresses to the parish church, where seats are provided for them.

There are apartments for the two mistresses and master among the buildings occupied by the female school of industry. The salaries of these three teachers, and the expences of fuel for all the apartments, are defrayed by the trust.

The whole profit of the work is divided among the scholars ; a small part weekly, but the bulk of it annually at Christmas, in the following manner. The mistresses and master have tickets to distribute among them *daily*, according to their diligence and good behaviour, and to be withdrawn or diminished on account of any fault, according to certain rules

printed for their use ; and the annual distribution of profit is made in exact proportion to the number of tickets that each scholar has received and preserved during the year.

These girls attended only as day scholars until the latter end of last October ; when twelve of them, between the ages of seven and nine, were admitted as inmates, to be provided with food, clothing, and lodging, at the expence of the charity ; towards which, however, the profits of their work are received. They chiefly consist of children living at too great a distance to attend the school ; and, in the election of them, a preference was given to orphans and other destitute children. They are meant to remain until they are fourteen or fifteen years old. A cow is kept for them, which, in the last year or two of their time, it is intended they shall milk ; and that, as they advance in strength, they shall occasionally, and in turns, be employed in washing and mending their own clothes, in dressing their victuals, and in cleaning the rooms ; by which means they will be prepared for good services, which it will be the endeavour of the trust to procure for them, with suitable encouragement for their employers and themselves. There is every reason to hope, that the produce of their work will so much diminish the expence of their maintenance, as to enable the trustees to extend this benefit to a greater proportion of the whole number, without much additional charge to the charity. Every one of the twelve, now admitted on this footing, had knit herself one, and some two,



pair of stockings, and was completely taught to spin jersey within the first quarter, though not instructed in either of these works before.

Nothing now remains but to state the methods taken to provide employment. The greatest difficulty was in respect to sewing. In order to bring this kind of work within their reach, handbills were distributed in the neighbouring towns and villages, giving notice, that it would be carefully performed at one half of the usual rates; and, by the good management of the mistress, it was so well executed, that work soon came in, and still continues, from all quarters, as much as can be executed, if not more. And the reduction in price, in respect to young seryants and unmarried labourers, is found to be as much a charity to the purchasers, as to the children employed.

The flax is bought on the best terms; and, when spun, it is woven and bleached in the parish. By the care of the mistress and the weaver, in sorting the thread according to its quality, the cloth has been all very good and serviceable; and, after allowing the children the usual spinning prices, has abundantly repaid all the charge of materials and workmanship.

Wool is purchased of the farmers after shearing time; and a large room, with all proper conveniences, is appropriated to the use of a manufacturer, who is employed in sorting, dying, and combing it. The jersey, when spun, is doubled by some of the children; and then brought back to the combing room, where there is also a twisting mill for finish-

ing it as worsted. Part of this is sold ; part employs the knitters, and some is sent to two stocking weavers at Berwick ; and it does not appear that there will be any difficulty, or loss, in the sale, either of the stockings, or of the worsted.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The produce of the tickets at Bamburgh school is distributed in money. In general it is preferable to bestow it in articles of clothing ; as, in many parts of England, the fathers would carry the money to the alehouse, or the mothers buy finery for themselves. In Northumberland, such are the good habits and economy of the poor, that there is no danger of such a misapplication ; and, upon the first introduction of work into the school, it was found expedient, by the allurements of a payment in money, to engage the parents' consent to it, instead of their children being employed, as at first, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, the whole day.

The manner, in which work has been provided for this school at Bamburgh Castle, is extremely deserving of attention, on account of its being practicable and beneficial in every part of England. It not only removes the great difficulty in the support of schools of industry, that of obtaining regular employment for the children, but affords a cheap supply of clothing to the neighbourhood.

The providing of dinners for the day-scholars

of schools of industry, at a very cheap rate, is very useful in other counties; but it is not so much in Northumberland, as the poor in the North have the advantage of possessing more management and economy with regard to their food, than those in the other parts of England.

There is also a school at \* Bamburgh for 60

\* This school at Bamburgh Castle is one of a great variety of charities, established under the will of Nathanael late Lord Crewe, and Bishop of Durham, who died in 1722; having devised considerable estates, in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, to five trustees; charged, in the first place, with the annual payment of some noble and well-known benefactions, to the university of Oxford, and to Lincoln college, of which his Lordship had been rector: and of several sums for the augmentation of livings, and the institution of schools, almshouses, and for other beneficent purposes, in the several counties and parishes, with which he had been connected; the residue being applicable to such charitable use and uses, as the trustees should from time to time appoint and direct.—This surplus was accordingly applied for various purposes of charity, as opportunity offered; but, during more than 30 years after the testator's death, it does not appear that any *permanent* and regular system was adopted. It was about that period, that the ancient castle of Bamburgh, once the residence of the Kings of Northumberland, and situated on one of the trust estates, began to be repaired; first for the purpose of holding the manor courts, and as a habitation for the minister; and afterwards as the fixed seat of several charitable establishments of great extent and utility, chiefly planned by the late Dr. John Sharp, Archdeacon of Northumberland, and Prebendary of Durham, who was elected a trustee, in the room of his father, Dr. Thomas Sharp, in the year 1758; from which time, till his decease, which happened in 1792, he was employed in arranging, with the concurrence of the other trustees, these plans which he carried into execution with great zeal and promptitude, superintending every part of this administration with indefatigable perseverance; for which purpose he resided in Bamburgh Castle, during several months in every year. And, in order that his successors might find every encouragement to continue these good works, he not only expended a good part of his own property

boys. The account of that, and of some other parts of the establishment at Bamburgh, may form subjects of future communications to the society.

*21st March, 1798.*

in his lifetime, on the improvements and accommodations of the place, but, at his death, bequeathed to the trustees all his furniture there, and a large and valuable library, besides a freehold estate, and a considerable sum of money, to be vested in the funds, for the perpetual repair of the great tower or keep, which he occupied, and intended for their use. *7th April, 1798.*

## No. XXXVIII.

*Extract from Mr. Oxley's account of the "poor and stranger's friend society," at Hull. By WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq.*

IN September, 1795, a society was instituted at Hull, for inquiring into, and alleviating the distresses of, the poor, in that place, particularly of such as were strangers and friendless ; the object of it being,

1st, By a personal attendance at the houses of the persons recommended or applying for relief to the society, to ascertain their real circumstances, and to distinguish cases of *real* misery from those of *fictitious* distress ; so as by timely relief in the one instance, and by proper correction in the other, to serve the cause of the *real* poor, and to prevent the *misapplication* of charity.

2dly, By application to parishes, whether in the neighbourhood or at a distance, in behalf of persons in distress, parishioners of such parishes, to procure relief for them, or to provide for their comfortable removal, according to the circumstances of the case ; thereby preventing part of them from becoming street beggars, and removing the others to be maintained by their own parishes.

3dly, By offering every assistance to honest industry, and refusing at the same time relief to those who are too indolent to do any thing for themselves,



or who persevere in a profane and irreligious course of life, to hold out to the poor a prevalent encouragement to exertion and virtue; and, by such means to explain to them the way of effectually serving themselves, and of training up their children in religion, in good habits, and in industry.

4thly, By providing medical aid for poor families in case of sickness, and by promoting the means of cleanliness among them, to increase their health and comfort.

In the execution of this plan, it has been the rule of the society not to supply the poor in general with money, but rather *to lay it out for them*; as the surest way of directing the relief economically and with effect: and every acting member of the society gives not merely his contribution, but his time, to the objects of the institution, without salary or allowance; so that the funds are entirely applied to the purposes of the charity, and the good effects thereby increased and extended.

The business of the society is conducted by a committee of 17 persons, a treasurer, 2 stewards, a surgeon, and 20 visitors, of which 5 are ladies. 300 sick persons have been admitted on their books, as patients, in the course of 2 years and a half, ending the 31st of March, 1798. 210 of these have been entirely cured; 36 relieved; 16 have proved incurable, or have been sent to the infirmary; 27 have died; and the remaining 11 were, in the beginning of April, 1798, still under cure. The expense of this part of the charity has amounted

to only 73*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; the apothecary attending gratis, and supplying the medicines at prime cost.

The account of the receipts and payments of this charity during the preceding period of two years and a half is as follows :

## RECEIPTS.

|  | £.    | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| 1798, March 31. Annual subscriptions<br>for two years and half to this day | 212   | 0  |    |
| Benefactions for ditto - -   | 340   | 8  | 11 |
| Allowance by the treasurer for interest<br>of money in his hands - -       | 14    | 3  | 9  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
|  | 566   | 13 | 2  |

## PAYMENTS.

|  | £.    | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| 1798, March 31. Printing address, ad-<br>vertisements, &c. - -   | 21    | 10 | 4  |
| Paid bills for medicines - -   | 73    | 6  | 10 |
| Paid for salts of vinegar for the use of<br>the visitors - - - -   | 0     | 17 | 5  |
| Paid for linen for the use of poor lying-<br>in women - - - -  | 1     | 19 | 10 |
| Paid in weekly donations of money,<br>butchers' meat, bread, flour, wine,<br>apparel, and for nurses, &c. &c. for<br>the relief of the poor in 5569 in-<br>stances - - - - | 325   | 7  | 1  |
| Balance in the hands of the treasurer  | 143   | 11 | 8  |
|  | <hr/> |    |    |
|  | 566   | 13 | 2  |

This institution has existed now for only two years and a half; and, in that short time (I speak from the authority of Mr. Oxley, who benevolently and gratuitously acts as the surgeon of the charity), effects have been produced by it, that must be extremely gratifying to all who interest themselves in the cause of humanity. It is difficult to estimate correctly its present benefit, or its probable consequences. It has produced a change in the morals, conduct, and circumstances of the greater part of those, who have been the objects of the charity. The drunkard has become sober, the idle, industrious; and the profane and irreligious have been brought to a regular attendance on divine service, of which they had before lived in the entire neglect: parishes have been induced, or obliged, to allow a proper maintenance to their own poor; and fraudulent beggars and vagrants have been compelled to abandon their trade, and return to their settlements.

### OBSERVATIONS.

Other institutions, like that which I have been describing, have been formed with effect and success at Halifax, Manchester, and in some other towns in England. It is somewhat wonderful, that no general society of this nature has been ever proposed, amid the variety of charities in the metropolis; where, from the indolence and inattention of the opulent, a number of impostors live in affluence and confidence on those alms, for the want of which thousands of poor creatures are perishing. The

amount of the money which is annually given in the metropolis under the name of charity, to the support of vice, idleness, and imposture, exceeds all calculation. While the indolent had rather give their shilling to *apparent misery*, than take the trouble of ascertaining the reality, and inquiring into the *circumstances*, of distress, the artful and fraudulent *vagrant* must always have an advantage over the *really needy and perishing*; and nothing can prevent the misapplication of the charity intended for the latter, so effectually as an establishment of a "POOR AND STRANGER'S FRIEND SOCIETY," like that which does so much honour to Hull. Their objects and regulations might be the same. The trouble and attention, which such an institution would at first require, would certainly be considerable; but these would be far more than compensated by its immediate effects, and by the extent of its beneficial consequences.

18th April, 1798.

## No. XXXIX.

*Extract from an account of a charity in Spitalfields, for supplying the poor with soup and potatoes ; with observations. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

ON the 16th of January, 1798, a shop was opened at No. 53, Brick-Lane, Spitalfields, for the purpose of selling to the poor, in that part of the metropolis, good meat soup at a penny a quart: to which they have since added the supply of potatoes, at the rate of 15 lb. for twopence, or 30 lb. for fourpence. The soup and potatoes are not sold indiscriminately to all who offer, but to persons who are recommended by the subscribers, and whose cases are in some instances inquired into, as far as is practicable. The recommendations are regularly filed, so as to be easily referred to. There are at present on the list above 3000 families, who are entitled to purchase the soup daily, and the potatoes once a week. Those who have a ticket for two quarts of soup may, instead of it, if they wish it, have for their twopence 15 lb. of potatoes ; but they can have them only once a week. Two ton and a half of potatoes per day are sold at this price, and in these quantities.

This charity is under the direction of a committee which now consists of 43 persons, who meet once a week ; when the treasurer reports the



monies received for soup, the number of subscribers, and the amount of subscriptions since the last committee, with the balance of cash in hand. The bills for meat, &c. are then referred to a sub-committee, which examines them, and reports to the next weekly meeting, when, if right, they are ordered to be paid. At each weekly committee, four \* of the members are, in their turn, appointed visitors for each day of the ensuing week: the visitor's diary is then read over, and remarks of importance taken into consideration. It is the business of the committee, once a month, to call a general meeting of the members of the society, which consists of all subscribers of half a guinea and upwards.

It is the duty of the four visitors for the day (or, if any one of them is necessarily prevented, then for one of the committee who acts as his substitute) to

\* The sale of the soup is proposed to be discontinued, from the 28th of April, for the summer season; but that of potatoes will go on as before, at twopence for 15 pounds weight.—I submit to the consideration of the gentlemen who conduct this charity, whether the execution of it might not be so arranged, as to require a less degree of *personal attendance*, on their part, than they have given; and whether, instead of four gentlemen of the committee regularly attending for a considerable portion of twenty-four hours, the attendance of one, or at most two, of the committee (with two assistants or clerks, who should have a moderate compensation for their time) would not be sufficient.—When charitable trusts are made troublesome and laborious, there can be little hope of their being well executed; for whatever may be the exertions of the first conductors, they will not be continued for any period of time by their successors.—The execution of charities should be made as simple and easy as possible, otherwise attention will be wearied, and the trust be eventually neglected. B. 26th April, 1793.

attend at the soup shop, at five o'clock in the evening, to see the meat weighed, cut up, and put into the iron boilers; of which they have two of 180 gallons each, and two of 125 gallons each. The fires are then lighted, and the next morning the barley, pease, onions, and other ingredients are apportioned, and added to each boiler. The following are the materials for 150 gallons of soup.

135 lb. of coarse pieces of beef.

135 lb. of legs and shins of beef.

52 lb. of Scotch barley.

52 lb. of pease.

36 lb. of onions.

10 lb. of salt.

1 lb. of pepper.

The same four visitors attend, about ten o'clock the next morning, for the purpose of delivering the soup. Two of them are employed in giving out tickets to those, who bring recommendations properly signed; one, in receiving the money, and reporting the number of each ticket, and the quantity allowed to each; and the fourth visitor, in registering the tickets in a numerical book, so as to prevent the same person from applying more than once on the same day. Before they leave the house, the visitors examine the cash received, ascertain that it agrees with the number of quarts sold, and enter it in the visitor's book, with any remark that may have occurred to them, and sign their names. They then report it to the treasurer, and deliver him, or his agent, a ticket of the amount,

with the money received; and that closes their duty for the day.

A copy of the receipt for the soup is hung up, in order that it may be referred to. Its average cost, exclusive of rent, wages, boilers, and improvements on the premises, is about  $5\frac{1}{2}d.$  a gallon.

The following assistants have been found necessary. A woman, who has no salary, but lives in the house rent-free: her office is to superintend the cooking, to deliver out the soup, and to take care that every thing be very clean. There are also three men, one of whom is paid 16s. and the others 14s. each per week: they prepare the meat and ingredients, attend the process of making the soup, do the general work of the kitchen, and scour and keep clean the boilers, utensils, and premises; cleanliness being considered by the committee as an object of great importance.

This charity is supported by a voluntary subscription. The committee at Lloyd's coffee-house, instituted for the relief of the out-parishes, has, in consequence of the representations of Mr. Colquhoun and others, presented the society with the sum of 500*l.*, and has given it liberty to recommend persons for 100 tons of potatoes, at the rate of 15 lb. for 2*d.* Other subscriptions and donations have been received, amounting, with that, to the sum of 1118*l.* 12*s.*

Great advantage has accrued to the charity in Spitalfields, from their business being divided among small sub-committees, who make regular reports;

and from that, which is generally the consequence of good arrangement and active benevolence; the *regular personal attendance of the members*. To this, in a great measure, is to be ascribed the success, which has hitherto attended the progress of an institution, the benefit whereof has been gratefully accepted by a large number of poor families, as a material aid towards their subsistence. Yesterday there were sold at the shop 1956 quarts: to-day 2011 quarts of the soup have been delivered, with ease and regularity, in the space of three hours.

It was the wish of some of the committee, to visit the dwelling of every individual, who received the benefit of the institution; to inquire into circumstances and situation, and to record each particular case. This, it was presumed, might contain a valuable body of information, relative to the situation of the poor. The complete execution of this part of the plan has, from the great number of cases that are the objects of relief, proved impracticable. It has however been in part executed: and it appears that, from particular circumstances, these parishes are at present loaded with a greater body of poor, than they are able to relieve; and that, if this necessary assistance to the distressed manufacturer cannot be continued upon a very extensive scale, many persons may be driven, by the want of the common necessities of life, to become burthensome to the metropolis at large, and to solicit charity in the public streets.



## OBSERVATIONS.

For the institution and management of this charity, the public is chiefly indebted to the society of Christians, called Quakers. The situation is peculiarly well chosen, being in the midst of a very numerous body of manufacturers, who have suffered extremely by the pressure of the times. Another institution of the same nature, and principally conducted by the same society, has been opened at Clerkenwell, for the benefit of the distressed watch-makers, and a third in St. George's Fields. As these three parts of the metropolis are at present burthened with a much greater number of poor, than they can supply with parochial relief, it is earnestly recommended to the inhabitants of the other parishes of London and Westminster, as the kindest and most economical means of preventing multitudes from being compelled to ask alms in the more opulent parts of the town, to contribute *generally* to the support of these charities. In order to further so useful and necessary a work, a subscription is opened, for the united benefit of these institutions, at Messieurs Hammersley's and Co. in the names of the Lord Bishop of Durham, William Wilberforce, Esq. and the writer of these observations. It is proposed that the donations shall not exceed one guinea each; and that, whenever there is the sum of 30*l.* in hand, it shall be divided equally among these three charities.

This society was induced to prefer soup for three



reasons ; 1st, that more relief can be administered in this way, at a limited expence, than by any other means ; 2dly, that there is a reasonable hope of the poor becoming thereby attached to a more economical mode of cookery, than what they at present possess ; and 3dly, that palatable and nutritious food, provided and sold at a low price, may encourage them to endeavour to provide for their families by their own industry, and to avoid the painful and humiliating necessity of applying to the parish for relief.

I ought not to conclude this paper, without acknowledging my obligation to four members of the committee, Mr. William Allen, Mr. John Arch, Mr. Stephen Powel, and Mr. William Phillips, for the obliging and very satisfactory manner, in which they have furnished me with the materials for this account of their institution.

*30th March, 1798.*

# APPENDIX.

## No. I.

*A general view of the situation of the mining poor,  
compared with that of some other classes of the poor.  
By the Reverend THOMAS GISBORNE.*

THE respective occupations of the different classes, into which the poor of this country may be divided, are found to produce important effects, not only on the habits of life, but also on the moral character of each class. To state with brevity the principal of these effects, as they severally appear exemplified in two or three of the most numerous classes, together with some practical remarks, may not be useless: since, from such a statement, persons, who are solicitous to befriend and improve the poor in their vicinity, may derive occasional suggestions as to the particular channels, in which their exertions are likely to be the most needed, and most beneficial.

It will be sufficient to speak successively of the situation of miners, of fishermen, and of manufacturers; illustrating each by incidental references to that of labourers in husbandry. The present paper will be confined to the case of miners.

Miners are commonly exempted, by the nature of their work, from the superintending inspection of their employer. The latter, in consequence,

finds the mode of paying them a certain sum per day unadvisable. He sets them to their task by the great, suiting the mode to prevailing custom and other local circumstances. In Derbyshire, the workmen frequently take a mine, or a bargain, for a determinate period, as three months, on the terms of receiving a settled price for each measure of ore which they shall produce; or occasionally, on the condition of being themselves allowed to purchase all the ore, at a stipulated rate. In Cornwall, the established course of proceeding is not substantially different. Hence there is a fundamental diversity between the gains of the miner and those of the husbandman. The husbandman, in general, earns a fixed sum per week. If he sometimes undertakes task-work, the amount of his earnings may still be foreseen with tolerable accuracy; and it has a known limit in the strength of his body, and in his skill in the particular sort of work. But the pay of the miner depends upon chance. The working miner is almost always in some measure a gambler, and embarks in the adventure of the mine. The ore may be found deposited in ample or in scanty veins; may be with ease, or with great difficulty, detached from its bed; it may stretch far and wide in an unbroken range, or it may be suddenly removed many yards to a higher or a lower level. Even in breaking up ground which does not contain veins of ore, the miner is still a gambler. The work is put up to a kind of auction; and the person who will undertake it on the cheapest terms is preferred. His bargain proves good or bad, ac-

cording to circumstances. He may find himself engaged upon a mass of soil, which yields readily to his spade, and pick-axe ; or retarded in his progress by rocky strata, whose stubborn opposition must be overcome by gunpowder.

The earnings however of the miner, though precarious, are on an average great : and in many instances very far exceed all prospect of gain, which a labourer in husbandry can propose to himself. Those miners who are industrious, and at the same time frugal, often make a conspicuous use of the opportunities which they possess, of improving their situation. With the surplus of their gains they purchase little spots of property (in Cornwall chiefly on leasehold tenures) and cultivate them in their hours of leisure.

But, in common, the miner is not disposed to adjust the scale of his expences to the *average* of his earnings. Being accustomed to the occasional receipt of considerable sums of money, money too which has flowed in suddenly upon him, rather from good fortune than from proportionate exertions, he often raises his expenditure and mode of living to a pitch to which the labourer in agriculture ventures not to aspire. He feeds on better diet, and wears clothes of finer materials, than the husbandman. And, in general, he persists in this manner of life, in spite of a change of circumstances. He is buoyed up with the sanguine hopes of a gamester ; and, for what he cannot pay to-day, draws on the favourable luck of to-morrow. This natural propensity is cherished and aggravated by the ease with which he

obtains credit, in comparison of those classes of labourers, whose gains, though steady, are limited. If he happens to be unsuccessful, he is trusted nevertheless at shops, and permitted to run up long scores at public houses; through the hopes entertained by the shopkeeper and the publican, that a day will come, when fortune will smile on the debtor. Thus the habits of the miner are seldom interrupted by any rubs and difficulties, which may teach him caution. He has less occasion than most other men to dread the immediate inconveniences of poverty; and does not willingly learn the necessity of frugality and forecast.

Miners very frequently work and live in large companies. Hence naturally arises the communication and the encouragement of vice. In Derbyshire it is observed, and the case is probably the same elsewhere, that, when only two or three miners work together, they are frequently much more sober and orderly than the rest of their class. Among the vices of miners, those are naturally prominent, which are usually associated with rudeness of character; as riotous dispositions, impatience of supposed grievances, and discontent inflamed by the contagion of turbulence and clamour, and filling with just alarm the adjacent country.

Drunkenness is a vice, to which particular classes of workmen are allured, in an especial manner, by the nature of their employments. Blacksmiths, glass-makers, and they who labour in other ways at the forge and the furnace, are led, by intense thirst and exhaustion of strength, first to the use,



and then to the abuse, of strong liquors. The cold and dampness of subterranean situations, and in some measure the powerful exertions of subterranean labour, produce a similar effect on the miner. Several other causes concur ; numerous and unprincipled society, large gains, and, in many cases, much vacant time. In Derbyshire and Cornwall, the miners frequently do not work above six hours ; and, in the former county, sometimes even but four hours in a day. The ease, too, with which a miner has obtained credit, often proves a temptation to excess. He, who has met with a friend in the time of need, in the keeper of an alehouse or of a brandy shop, will feel inclined, when he has money, to spend it freely at the house of his friend, partly from gratitude, and partly from the hope of obtaining credit hereafter. Another inducement to drunkenness remains to be mentioned : namely, the custom which prevails in some few places, of paying the miners on Saturday evening, by a bill for a sum which is to be divided among them. These men, however disposed to depart home with their wages entire in their pockets, are absolutely forced to go for change to the neighbouring public house ; the master of which is known regularly to provide himself with cash, to answer the demand. During the division something must be spent. From this custom many miners, once sober and well disposed, have probably had to date the commencement of habits of ebriety.

The labourer in husbandry is commonly attached to some particular family, either of a private gentle-

man, or of a farmer. In the former case, it generally happens that he receives from his employer many little favours. In the latter, he is perhaps furnished with corn at a price lower than that of the neighbouring market, or enjoys some similar advantage. Hence the master acquires an influence over the conduct of his workmen ; and is often seen to exert it in promoting their comfort, and guarding them from extravagant and profligate courses. The connexion, which subsists between the proprietor of a mine and the working miner, is comparatively slight. The latter considers himself as independent ; frequently shifts his quarters, and is little under the controul of authority, or of persuasion.

Another circumstance in the situation of miners, which is unfavourable to domestic frugality and good management, is to be traced in the sort of women, which they often choose for wives. At almost every mine, there is a number of women, daughters in general of the mining poor, who earn their livelihood by picking and washing the ore, and performing other operations of the same nature. In these employments they have been busied from their childhood. A young mining labourer takes a hasty liking to one of these young women, and marries her, without thinking about consequences. This is the history of a multitude of marriages among miners ; and, circumstanced as the parties are, it is natural that the case should be so. The wife, however, is not likely to have found the mine an excellent school, either of virtue, or of economy.

Nor is it, in consequence, very surprising that waste, profligacy, and dram-drinking, should be almost among the ordinary habits of a miner's family. The daughters of the husbandman are commonly brought up much more under the eye of their mother. They help her in nursing and spinning, and other occupations at home; and when they go out to work in the field, it is frequently in her company. They stand therefore a better chance of being trained in morality and religion, and the arts of female industry; and become habituated to that economy, and those various contrivances, which actual necessity forces on the wife of a day labourer. They of course will, in general, make more virtuous and more prudent wives, than young women who have been accustomed, from an early age, to the company and example of the mixed croud of their own sex and of the other, which is usually assembled at the mine and the stamping mill.

The colliers in the vicinity of the Tyne form so large a body of men, and shew so strongly marked a character, that some distinct account of them seems proper to be subjoined.

Few undertakings open the door so soon to the employment of the young, and few operate so powerful to impress durable habits on the mind of youth, as the coal trade

Boys enter the subterranean workings at the age of six or seven, in the character of *trap-door keepers*, an employment suited to their years; the labour being little more than to open and shut doors, fixed for conducting air round the various works, when

the coals are passing through them from the workmen to the shaft.

In this situation they remain four or five years, with little intercourse during the hours of labour (which are from 12 to 18 out of the 24) either with their equals in years, or with their superiors: and hear little that can influence their minds, except the noise of imprecations spreading through the works, from the pitman contending with his overseer, down to the half-grown youth, employed in leading the coals from the workman, and imposing upon his younger partner in the labour a disproportionate share of the work, to procure ease to himself. When they reach the age of ten or twelve years, a more laborious station is allotted to them.

They then become what are termed *lads* or *foals*; supplying the inferior place at a machine called a tram, where two are employed in drawing the coals from the workmen to the shaft. In this situation they are subject to the most harsh usage from their superior in the work, who frequently forces upon them, with profane and abusive language, followed by blows, a greater share of the labour than they are able to perform. Hence, in order to avoid punishment, they soon learn habits of deceit and evasion: and scruple not to practice them, whenever they seem expedient, at the expence of truth and honesty. And when the period arrives, which places them in the station from which they have received so much abuse, they seldom fail to retaliate on those, whom progressive advancement from the trap-door to the tram, brings into their power.

In every subsequent step towards manhood, they consider it as a merit to deceive and over-reach.—In their next stage of occupation they are employed, during one half of their time, *in putting and drawing* the coals ; and, during the other half, in raising the coal from its bed. Here a wider field opens itself to the display of their ingenuity, in the art of evasion ; and new incentives impel them to the exercise of it.—Let loose from even that small degree of restraint, under which they considered themselves as held by the authority of their parents (for at this period they generally become their own masters, having the full disposal of the product of their labour), and inflamed with the growing passions of youth, they indulge themselves, with the most vicious emulation, in the scenes of intemperance and profligacy. If they are, at any time, without the means necessary to procure those indulgences, they study to avail themselves in their respective departments of every artifice (however injurious to the interest of their employer) to complete their purpose. Thus by slow but perceptible degrees, the mind becomes poisoned with wicked principles and guilty habits.

The hours devoted to what they term their amusement, are not less prejudicial to the moral character.—At a very early period in life they attend the haunts of their fathers at public-houses ; where their growing fondness for strong liquors is encouraged, rather than checked, by their parents ; and the child soon becomes a man in the frequency of intoxication. To gratify this passion for intem-



perance, which is a leading characteristic of pitmen, they endeavour to enhance the price of their labour by every art in their power ; and, in this, as well as in every other transaction with their employers, easily sacrifice the principles of rectitude, to promote their selfish designs.

The early age, at which the child is separated from the parent, and the little communication which they have with each other afterwards, visibly impair those affectionate feelings, which constitute parental happiness.

They seem to consider their children chiefly in the light of servants and dependents, from whose labour they expect to reap advantage ; and are little solicitous to impress on their minds, habits of sobriety, honesty, and truth ; and thus to train them in the paths of religion.

For the purpose of inculcating Christian principles, Sunday schools have been established. While the institution was novel, they were numerously attended.—As soon as that impression lost its influence, they became far less frequented. And no representations of the good effects of such institutions, have been sufficient to prevail upon the parents, to enforce attendance by their authority. Even where daily schools have been established by some of the opulent coal-owners, the pitmen frequently do not give their children the advantage of that little education, which might there be obtained, antecedently to the period when they enter the pit.

When the principals are thus habitually depraved,

it is not to be expected that much attention will be paid to the duties of religion. By most, even external forms are disregarded; and the time, which ought to be spent in attendance on divine worship, is generally dissipated in frivolous pursuits, vulgar athletic exercises, or in drinking at public houses.—Where attention to religion prevails, the good effects are manifest.—Colliers of that character are usually sober, industrious, honest, and frugal, both in themselves, and in their families.

Another trait, in the character of a collier, is his predilection to change of situation. Whatever may be the comfort and conveniences resulting from his connection with any particular employ, he sacrifices them all to his love of variety, and the hope of superior advantage; so that annual changes are almost as common with the pitman, as the return of the seasons; and, not unfrequently, the succeeding year finds him in the same situation, which he quitted twelve months before. And whatever favours he may have received, he is disposed to consider them as all cancelled by the refusal of a single request.

It is to high wages, that many of the criminal habits, so often attached to the character of a collier, may in part be ascribed. He is furnished with the power of obtaining more than the necessaries of life; and being destitute of the principles, which would teach him to apply the surplus to proper purposes, he squanders it in the gratification of gross sensuality. To economy he is, in general, an utter stranger. It is no unusual thing to see a man

and his family, during the first week after they receive their wages (which are commonly paid to them once a fortnight) indulging themselves in the use of animal food three times a day ; and in the succeeding week living on a little rye bread, with oatmeal and water, until the next receipt of their wages enables them to return to a course of luxury. The contrast between the pitman and the labourer in husbandry is very striking. The latter, with 9s. a week, is seen keeping himself, his wife, and several children, from whose labour he reaps little advantage, with all the appearance of decency and frugality ; and even allowing out of his wages something for the education of his children : while the former, with 16s. a week, and often more, together with the labour of his family (which, if it consists of three or four boys, brings him in from 20 to 30s. a week in addition to his own gains) passes half of his time in luxury and riot, and the remainder in filth and poverty. The manners of the pitmen are said evidently to have altered, within a few years, materially for the worse.

As the preceding account of the colliers does not represent them in an attractive light, it is the more incumbent on me to say, that I speak from concurrent information derived from different sources, each of high authority.\* Many exceptions to the general description undoubtedly exist.

\* I am much indebted for very valuable information respecting the Newcastle colliers to the exertions of Matthew Montague, Esq. of Portman Square. The Rev. William Gregor, of Creed near Tregony, supplied me with much useful intelligence concerning the miners in Cornwall.

The preceding statement contains facts of such a nature, that the perusal of it will probably suggest to the reader several practical remarks. There are, however, some points, on which it may be useful to add a few words.

The first evil, in the situation of miners, which ought to be remedied, is the very little education and religious instruction, which their children in general receive. How are these children, when they compose in their turn the next generation of the mining poor, to discharge their duty to God and man, if they are not impressed early with the principles, from which the sense of religious and moral obligation flows? The institution of Sunday schools is one excellent mean for the attainment of the object in question. Every possible encouragement ought to be given to them, and persuasion and little premiums, and all other fit inducements should be employed, to secure the regular and cheerful attendance of the scholars. Another method of improving the parents, as well as the children, has been recently and deservedly recommended by an eminent prelate;\* namely, the erection of additional chapels in populous districts. Let it here be generally observed, that, in every plan for improving the character of the mining poor, the proprietor of the mine and the clergyman of the place ought cordially and actively to co-operate. Each has it in his power to contribute to that im-

\* See an excellent charge lately addressed by the Bishop of Durham to his clergy.

provement : and, in proportion to his power, each is responsible.

The predominant vice of drunkenness calls for the most vigilant counteraction.—Let the number of public houses be reduced within as narrow limits as convenience will permit : and the conduct of publicans be carefully observed by the gentlemen and magistrates of the country. Let the very pernicious custom, of paying miners by a bill to be changed at the public house, be immediately abolished. The temporal distresses, which result from ebriety, afford arguments proper to be urged to individuals, in proportion to their intrinsic force. But I know no method of recalling guilt to the paths of rectitude, either in public or in private life, likely to be durably efficacious, except this : first to impress the mind with a conviction of the truth and awful import of Christianity ; and then, to point out the bearings of Christian commands and prohibitions on the particular subject, with respect to which you wish to accomplish a reformation. He who, under the impulse of brutish appetite, disregards all considerations of injured health, wasted property, a heartbroken wife, and starving children, may pause, tremble, and be reclaimed, when he sees that the “ *drunkard*” has his place in the dark catalogue of those, who “ *shall not inherit the kingdom of God !*”

The use of profane language may be in a great degree repressed by care, on the part of the proprietor, to appoint conscientious agents and superintendants over his works. I could name more



than one instance of captains of men of war, who, by suitable penalties and personal exertions, have almost eradicated that vice from their ships. Why should it be more difficult to be subdued in a coal-mine ?

Deceit appears to be among the general faults of miners. It is stated as one of the characteristics of the Newcastle colliers : and a similar reproach is applied to the miners in Derbyshire, who are said by practice to have attained great adroitness in disfiguring the sides of a mine, when the time, for which they have taken it, is expiring; that the owner may be entrapped into a new bargain advantageous to the workmen. By a due choice of agents, let the tyranny of the elder partner over his colleague at the tram, one principal source of deceit, be prevented. And, universally, let the love of truth be habitually encouraged, and traced up to Christian motives.

In opposition to the spirit of mutiny and discontent, it may easily be shewn, and it ought to be inculcated, that no principles are, on the one hand, more adverse to turbulence and anarchy, nor, on the other, more favourable to genuine freedom, than those of the religion which we profess ; and that corresponding praise belongs to those of the constitution under which we live.

The propensity to change of situation, which prevails among miners, to the detriment of themselves and employers, will be best encountered by solicitude, on the part of the proprietor, to attach his workmen to himself, by rendering their condi-

tion comfortable. Let him make their cottages neat, and moderately commodious ; adding to them ample gardens, and affording to each family an opportunity, as far as may be practicable, of keeping a cow, or of purchasing milk : let him study to allure them to habitual cleanliness, when above ground. Let him invite them to forecast, by encouraging the establishment of friendly societies ; the advantage of which to miners is the greater, on account of the frequent accidents to which they are exposed : and let him promote similar institutions for the benefit of widows and orphans. Let him set up schools, where the girls may be instructed, in sewing, knitting, and spinning, and those little domestic arts, which will be of the utmost utility, when they become wives and mothers. By abundant ventilation, and other suitable contrivances, let him render the different subterranean occupations salubrious, and as free from disagreeable circumstances of every kind, as the nature of the case will admit.

*22d Jan. 1798.*

## No. II.

*Observations on the situation of cottages, with a plan for enabling cottagers to build them. Extracted from "an Address to the Landed Interest," by WILLIAM MORTON PITT, Esq. Published in 1797.*

THERE are few parishes without several rough, encumbered, and uncultivated tracts of land, which might be converted into large gardens, and on which cottages might be erected, either by some of the poor themselves, to be held on lives, or at the expence of the parish, or of the proprietors of estates. Where there is no land uncultivated, other grounds, which can be most conveniently spared, should be allotted to them. Many young men, having saved a little money, would be very desirous of taking such spots of ground on leases for 3 lives, and of building cottages thereon. I have frequently remarked that the labourers who possess this kind of property are the most industrious, sober, and frugal, that they seldom apply to their parishes for relief, and that their houses have an appearance of neatness and comfort, not often met with elsewhere. If these were more attainable by the poor, frugality would revive amongst them, and young people would strive to lay up a sum of money for this purpose. Every labourer possessing such property of his own, would consider himself as having a permanent interest and stake in the country. The hope of improving their lot is the

main spring of industry in all other stations in life. Would it not then be policy as well as humanity, to afford to the agricultural poor the same opportunity? The wealth and greatness of this country has been attributed, not only to the spirit of enterprize of our merchants and manufacturers, but to the effect which the possession and the security of property, enjoyed under our free and excellent constitution, have on the minds of men. If this effect has been so salutary among other classes, why may not similar encouragement create the same energy among the cultivators of the land; and why should those alone remain in a dispirited and distressed state?

To attach this numerous, hardy, and less corrupted body of men more and more to their country, nothing would so much contribute, as allowing them the means of improving by industry their own situation in life, or that of their children. A man who owns a house, with a large garden annexed to it, on a lease for lives, for which he only pays a moderate quit-rent, is richer by far than he who receives much higher wages, but who has to pay a considerable rent for a cottage, with little or no garden ground, and who is obliged to purchase all he consumes. The produce of a garden diminishes the consumption of bread, which is the most considerable article of a poor man's expenditure: it is an advantage wholly created by the cultivator's industry, at times when not otherwise engaged, and by that of his wife and children; and is therefore so much labour, or in other words, riches, gained to

the community: and the employment gives health and vigour to his children, inures them to fatigue, and trains them to industry. The value to him who receives the ground is immense, yet it is no loss to him who grants it. It procures the poor man comfort and plenty; and, by so doing, keeps within moderate bounds the wages of labour. Every man, who is averse to raising the wages of labour in husbandry, should at least encourage the culture of gardens.

As the land, on which such cottages would be built, will usually be of an inferior value, it will be enough to estimate it, at an average, at 10s. an acre; where the land is better, a higher rent may be added without injustice; for, the better the land, the greater will be the advantage to the lessee from its produce as a garden. The quantity of land to be attached to such a cottage should be half an acre; if it be more than sufficient to produce the vegetables wanted for a family, a part of it may be sown with a little wheat for bread, and to fatten the pigs, and barley for malting, or to enable them to brew a little small beer; the want of which induces many to frequent the alehouse, and proves the source of vicious courses.

The corn in these gardens should be raised by dibbling, which is already very much practised in many parts of the kingdom. The cultivation of the garden will be chiefly conducted by the wife and younger children of the family (who will thus very soon contribute largely to their own support, if not wholly maintain themselves; so that a numerous



offspring will cease to be a great burden), to which must be added a certain proportion of assistance from the father, at his extra hours. Where 10s. an acre is the value of the land, 5s. per annum must of course be added, for the half acre of ground, to the quit-rent for the house. Let that be 5s. and the whole annual payment will be 10s.; and, when it is considered that the proprietor of the estate has been at no expence whatsoever in building or repairing the cottage, and that he receives annually the quit-rent for the house, in addition to the full rent of the land on which it is built, I think the fine, to be required in putting in a life, should not exceed one year's purchase, computed on the real value. The cottager, then, who builds a house upon this principle, acquires the following advantages; permanency of property, that all improvements are for the benefit of himself and his family, respectability of situation, a diminution of annual expenditure, and that he cannot be removed under any circumstances.

This arrangement will answer in all cases, where a labourer has a sufficiency of money to enable him to build a cottage; but that cannot be the lot of all. Yet a plan may be devised, by means of which, a man, having but a small proportion of the sum requisite for such an undertaking, may be enabled to adapt it. The owner of the land may, without risk, advance to any labourer in want of such assistance 10*l.* or even 15*l.* towards carrying on his work, not to be paid to him in money, but laid out for his use as wanted, in the purchase of

materials, or in wages to the workmen whom he is obliged to call in to assist him in the construction of his house. The cottage itself would be a sufficient security for the loan; since the money will only be issued, in proportion as the work advances. The cottager should pay interest at 5 per cent., and part of the principal, at least 10 per cent. every year. If he fail in making these payments, his effects should be liable: or, if the demand be not otherwise satisfied in a reasonable time, the house itself. The sooner he discharges his debt, the better it will be for him: and he will look forward with impatience to the time of its liquidation, that he may enjoy the effects of his industry and so comfortable a situation. In 10 years, however, at all events, he will be clear from incumbrances; and in the mean while he will have to pay each year not more, and, in many parts of England, not so much as he would have given as annual rent for an ordinary cottage. The landlord would also be benefited, by being relieved from the expence of repairs, and by the reduction of poor's rate; he would receive his quit-rent annually, and a fine from time to time, in addition to the full rent of his land, as well as 5 per cent interest on the money lent, the whole debt being discharged in 10 years at farthest.

*9th May, 1798.*

## No. III.

*Observations on the larger sort of cottages, and the mode of erecting them. Extracted from "Hints to Gentlemen of Landed Property," by NATHANIEL KENT, Esq. Published in 1775.*

THE larger sort of cottage, which may sometimes be preferred, will cost, when built of brick and tiles, £70. These might be appropriated to the use of labourers of the most industrious disposition. And, as it would have an excellent effect to make some gradation among cottages, as well as farms, it would be highly proper, and useful, to lay (besides half an acre of garden-ground) a small portion of pasture-land, about 3 acres, to each of these larger cottages, to enable the occupiers of them to support a cow; which would be a real comfort to their families, as milk is the natural food of children. If we value these three acres and an half of land at a guinea an acre upon an average, and add it to the rent of the house, it will bring the rent to £6. 9s. 6d. The value of the cow, if her produce were even sent to market would at least amount to £4.: but being used in the family, would, with the assistance of the garden, enable them to keep a sow, or two store pigs, which would at least double the market price. As one acre or more of this ground might be mowed every year for hay, the cow might be kept in good order with this quantity; and it would be

better worth a cottager's while, to give this rent for this lot of land, than to trust to the precarious advantage of a common, which always starves his cow in the winter. If it should be alleged, that there is not one cottager in twenty who can afford to buy a cow ; this difficulty may be easily obviated, by the landlord's letting him a cow, as well as the land, in the manner that dairies are generally let.

This would be dealing with the poor as we would wish to be dealt with ourselves, in a similar situation ; but, instead of this, cottagers are chiefly left by gentlemen to the farmer's disposal ; and, when they are accommodated with a small quantity of land, are obliged to pay, at least, a *double* proportion of rent for it, to what the farmers pay themselves.

Warm cottages of this sort would require much less fuel, than those in the present style, which is a very considerable article to a cottager.

The next consideration is, to choose a convenient situation for cottages. Great farmers are very unwilling to admit them close to their farms ; and nothing is more common, than for a poor labourer to be obliged to come a mile, and sometimes more, to his labour, and return home again at night, in all kinds of weather, after he has done a hard day's work. Cottages should therefore be erected, if possible, on some sheltered spot, near the farm where the labour lies ; and true policy points out, that every farm ought to have a sufficient number of such useful appendages, in proportion to its size. Such cottages, under some such regulations as these,

would be of great use and ornament to a country, and a real credit to every gentleman's residence ; as, on the contrary, nothing can reflect greater disgrace upon him, than a shattered miserable hovel, at his gate, unfit for human creatures to inhabit. Upon encouragement like this, good tenants would never be wanting. Industry would meet with a reward, the poor-rates would necessarily be lightened, and population increased. A farm thus provided with such a sufficient number of labourers as might, at all times and seasons, be depended upon, would be of more value on that account. The tenant of such farm would not be subject to pay exorbitant wages, as he otherwise must, on particular occasions. He would not be obliged to court the vagrant, to lend him a precarious assistance, or to have recourse to towns, to pick up disorderly people. In summer, besides the usual business of haymaking, he might employ even the women, and children, in weeding, and other usual business.

Almost every parish is, in a great measure, subject to some particular gentleman, who has sufficient power and influence over it, to correct the present grievance, and to set a better example. Such gentlemen should consider themselves as guardians of the poor, and attend to their accommodation and happiness ; it is their particular business, because they and their families have a lasting interest in the prosperity of the parish ; the farmers only a temporary one. If a gentleman's fortune be so large, that he cannot attend to objects of this sort, he should,



at least, recommend the cottagers to the attention of his agent : and give him strict instructions, to act as their friend and protector ; for unless some such check be put upon great farmers, they are very apt to contribute to the demolition, instead of the protection of cottages ; and when the nest is destroyed, the bird must emigrate into some other parish. A cottager, in this case, has no other choice, unless it be to make application to the neighbouring justice of the peace, for his order to the parish officers to find him some other place to lay his head in. If it were not for this excellent law, which obliges parish officers to find habitations for their poor, I am sorry to remark, that in many parishes, they would be literally driven into the open fields.

There is another plan relative to cottages, which generally answers extremely well, and that is, to lease them off to industrious labourers, for the term of three lives, at their nomination ; taking a very moderate fine, not exceeding £10. or £12. upon a cottage worth about 40s. a year ; reserving a small quit-rent, not exceeding half a crown a year, and making it a point to renew any life which drops off, upon one year's value only. This scheme is beneficial for landlord and tenant ; for though the former does not let his cottages for so much as he might at rack-rent, yet what he does get is all clear money ; and by this means he preserves the value of all other parts of his estate, by keeping up a proper number of inhabitants. The latter finds his account in it, because he makes a settlement for his family ; and can repair and improve his cottage

at leisure hours with his own hands; and if he be an industrious man, he can generally find a friend to lend him his first fine on such an occasion, if he cannot raise it himself.\*

I should recommend, that cottages should be built double; because it will be a considerable saving in the expence of their erection.—Where pollards are plenty, and bricks scarce, it will sometimes be proper to prefer the wooden-lath and rough-cast cottages, because half the quantity of timber may be pollards: but, where they are built with brick, the following particulars should be attended to.

The walls should be fourteen inches thick to the bottom of the chamber-floor, except in the window-spaces; and the upper part of the walls nine inches. In these brick buildings no framed timber should be used: but the lintel of the windows should be laid the whole length of the building, nine inches scantling by two and a half; and then

\* I cannot help adding an extract on this subject, from the 27th section of Mr. Kent's Agricultural Survey of Norfolk. "I am persuaded, that if there were a certain  
 " number of comfortable cottages, with two or three acres  
 " of grass land each, in proportion to the size of the estates  
 " to be bestowed as a reward to labourers of particular  
 " good conduct, it would do wonders towards the reduction  
 " of the rates, and the preservation of order; for I have  
 " been witness to several striking proofs of this, in two or  
 " three labourers, who have been thus favoured, whose  
 " attachment to their masters was exemplary, as they were  
 " not only steady in themselves, but by their example kept  
 " others from running into excess.—I KNOW OF NO LAW  
 " THAT CAN ENFORCE INDUSTRY: IT MAY BE EN-  
 " COURAGED, AND GREAT GOOD WILL RESULT FROM  
 " IT; BUT IT NEVER CAN BE EFFECTED BY COMPUL-  
 " SION." B.

the same piece will serve to lay joists upon, which should be pinned with oaken pegs, which will prove a great tie to the walls. The joists should be cut eight inches by two and an half, and laid edge-ways. The length of the spar to be ten feet, being a proper pitch for tiling; and to be cut two inches and a half thick, five at bottom, and three and a half at the top. The lower rooms to be seven feet high, in the clear, under the joists. In the largest sized brick cottages, the roof to be hipped in at the ends, which will save the two peaks of brick-work, and will not require more tiling, than would be made use of without it. One great advantage derived from hipping, is, in the building's being better braced together, and more secure from the effect of tempests: for, where the gable ends are carried up in peaks, to any considerable height, without chimnies to strengthen them, they are not so well fitted to resist an end-wind.

The cieling should be between the joists, nailing first a few laths at about a foot apart, cross-ways, and the other laths length-ways over them; otherwise the mortar has nothing to get hold of. This makes less expence than cieling over the joists; and is besides better calculated to retain the mortar, and will afford more space; for the joists, being left naked, will be very useful to hang many things to. The cieling joists upon the top of the chamber need be only five inches by one and a quarter, and may be nailed to the spars feet, and not pinned. The other scantlings are as follow. The partition studs three inches by two. The lower cills six

inches by five. The window-frames three inches by three. Lower door-cases five inches by four. Cross mantle-pieces for the chimnies eight inches by eight.

In the wooden cottages, the frame-studs are to be six inches by five. The intermediate, or smaller studs, five inches by three. The girt-pieces six inches by five ; and the upper cill five inches square.

*13<sup>th</sup> May, 1798.*

No. IV.

*Charge to overseers of the Hundred of Stoke in the county of Bucks. By Sir THOMAS BERNARD, Bart.*

BUCKS, HUNDRED OF STOKE.

*To wit,*

To  
the parish of  
Sir,

Overseer of the poor for  
in the said county.

The office, to which you are this day appointed, is of no small importance ; inasmuch as the welfare of a considerable part of our fellow subjects depends upon the due execution of it. It is *your* duty, Sir, to be the GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR OF THE POOR ;—and, as such, to provide employment for those who *can* work, and relief and support for those who *cannot* ; to place the *young* in a way of obtaining an honest livelihood by their industry, and to enable the *aged* to close their labours and their life in peace and comfort.

In the execution of this office, it is your duty to consider how you may best *improve the situation of the poor* in your parish, so as to lessen the calls for parochial relief, and thereby to diminish your parish rate.—In this respect, much may be done by *occasional* aid and encouragement to parishioners with large families; much, by means of regular employment for children, either at home or in schools of



industry, so as to fit them to be placed out in service at an early age ;—and much, by a judicious management of your poorhouse, if you have one, and by making a proper distinction and separation between the honest and industrious who are driven thither by age, infirmity, or misfortune, and the idle and profligate, whose loose and vicious habits of life have made them a burthen and a disgrace to their parish.

You are, Sir, within the space of fourteen days,   
 Entering on Office. to receive the books of assessments and of accounts from your predecessors, together with such money and materials, as shall be in their hands ; and if any balance is due to them, you are to pay it out of the first monies that come to your hands.

In conjunction with the church-wardens of your parish, you are, by a parish rate, to Materials for work, &c. raise money, to purchase a sufficient stock of materials for setting the poor to work, and to supply competent sums for the relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such among you as are poor and unable to work, and for putting out poor children apprentices.

In making the poor's-rate, it is necessary that a Poor's rate, how made ; majority of the church-wardens and overseers should concur ; and it is your duty, to make an equal and impartial rate, without favour or affection, upon “ every occupier of lands, houses, tithes, mines, and saleable underwoods in your parish.” When such rate is made, it is to be approved and signed by two

justices, dwelling in or near your parish ; and, on the Sunday after, to be published in your parish church.

In case the rates, so made, shall not be regularly paid, you may obtain a summons for the person making default to appear <sup>and how levied.</sup> before two neighbouring justices ; who may, by warrant, authorize such rates to be raised by distress in your parish ; or, if sufficient goods of such person making default be not found in your parish, then, upon application to one justice, to be levied in any other county, or district, where the defaulter may have property.

With regard to the *poor's-rate*, we know that there are instances, in some parts of England, where it has been levied <sup>Whether cottagers should pay rates.</sup> upon *the poor*: we mean, by the poor, those who have not the advantage of any profession, trade, property, or income, nor other means of support, except their daily labour ; and who have only a cottage, a little garden, and a few articles of furniture, merely such as are necessary for them and their families ; and we think it our duty to observe, that, to charge such poor persons to the rate at all, appears to us to be directly contrary to the authority, under which the rate is made ; viz. the statute of Elizabeth, which was passed soon after the dissolution of the monasteries, and entitled “ an Act for the *Relief of the Poor* ;” an Act, in which, if *cottages* had been intended to have been included, they would have been expressly named, as well as

*houses*; from which they were then considered as totally different, and distinguishable in point of law.

It is impossible to read that statute, without perceiving that it was never intended to compel the *poor*, who are frugal and industrious, to support those who are not so; but that there is, throughout, a distinction made between the class of men, not having income or property, who are to be *intitled* to relief under it, and those who, from the income of their property, profession, trade, or occupation, are to *contribute* to that relief:—that by the *poor* are intended the labouring cottagers; who, if out of employment, are, under that Act, to have work found them;—if lame, impotent, old, or blind, and unable to work, are to receive pecuniary or other relief;—who, if habitations are wanting, are to have them erected at the charge of the parish;—and whose children, if unemployed, are to be set to work, and, at a fit age, to be placed out apprentices in service or to a trade.

But whatever may be the opinion as to the *law*, there can be no doubt in point of *prudence*, that while the day labourer, who has children, is exerting himself to maintain his family without parochial aid, it is a dangerous experiment to attempt to make him contribute to the support of your other poor, with the probable, or even a possible, consequence of driving a large family on the parish.

There is, however, one class of labouring men,

who have still a superior claim to exemption from parish rates;—the members of Friendly Societies, who are acquiring for themselves, out of the savings of their own industry, an eligible and honourable provision, independent of the poor laws. As these societies, particularly *where they enjoy the advantage of having their rules framed and confirmed according to law*, have the effect of greatly reducing the poor's-rate, it is required of you, as an act, not merely of justice but of prudence, not to *endeavour*, in any case, to compel such labouring men, being members of friendly societies established according to law, to contribute to the support of *the other poor* of their own parish.

In applying the rate for the relief of the poor, we request that you will attend to the *permanent improvement* of their condition, rather than to the little expedient or economy of the moment.—If a poor man's family is visited by sickness or calamity, it is better for your parish that he should receive a timely supply of medical and other necessary assistance at home, and be re-established in the power of maintaining himself and his family by his labour, than that they should be neglected, until it becomes necessary to move them into the poorhouse, where they may probably remain, a burthen to the parish, for many years:—If the poor of your parish want employment, there is more economy in supplying them

Case of members of Friendly Societies.

Application of the rate in making permanent improvement; by giving *seasonable* relief,

and by finding the poor employment;

with instruction, encouragement, spinning-wheels, wool, and other means of earning a livelihood, than in leaving them to be oppressed by poverty, and by that languid and desponding indolence, which is often rather the misfortune than the vice of the poor; with the consequence of being obliged to maintain the family afterwards, at ten times the expence, that would have been incurred at first, by a timely supply of relief to themselves. Upon this head, we have one earnest request to make; that they having the whatever is made by their labour, whole of their they may have the *whole produce* of earnings. it, without any deduction on any pretence whatever.—The earnings of the poor should be sacred and inviolate, in order to encourage them to work, and to exempt the character of their employers from the imputation of interested motives.

Upon the authority of the case of the *King and North Shields*, (20 Geo. III.) we Of giving relief for children at home. have, where parents have applied for support for their infant children under seven years of age, ordered them relief at home, without removing the parents or children into the parish workhouse; adopting the humane and judicious sentiments, which Mr. Justice Buller delivered on that occasion:—that it would be injurious to parishes, if, when *one* of a numerous family wants relief, the *whole* must go to the parish workhouse;” and that it would be very unjust “that the parish should be entitled to the labour of a whole family, because *one* of them



“ might want relief.”—Any difficulties, however, that did exist on this subject, have been removed by the act (36 Geo. III. cap. 23.) which enables magistrates to make special orders for the relief of industrious poor persons *at home*

It is your duty, Sir, to see that there are proper habitations for the poor of your pa- Of habitations  
rish ; and if, by the decay of cottages, for the poor.  
or by the increase of population, more habitations are wanted for them, you are, with the leave of the lord of the manor, to erect cottages for them at the parish expense, on the waste or common, within your parish.

After every thing has been done for the encouragement and protection of the deserv- Of punishing  
ing poor, there remains another vagrants and idle  
class, which it will be necessary to persons.  
reform by punishment ; I mean those drones of society, *idle* and *disorderly* persons, whom the law has described as *vagrants*, *rogues*, and *vagabonds*. It is due to the honest exertions of the industrious cottager, that, while he receives aid and encouragement, they should not escape correction ; that every distinction should be made between him and those, who wander about, endeavouring to subsist, without labour, on the industry of others ; of whom many have deserted their families, and almost all have quitted the place, or situation, where their services might have been useful, and where they ought to have been employed.—In bringing these to punishment, with a view to amendment, it will be prudent in you to apply for directions to this

bench, where you have found regular attendance and assistance from the magistrates for the space of nine years; and it will be merciful so to select the objects, as that the punishment of few may have its effect in the reform of many.

As in your conduct towards the poor out of the Of the treat- workhouse, so, in respect of those ment of the poor in the within its walls, there should be a workhouse. *marked distinction* between the *industrious* and the *idle*, and between the *orderly* and the *profligate*. There is nothing in the internal regulation of this country, more subversive of its credit, or more inimical to its prosperity, than the uniform and unvaried treatment, which the best and the worst of our fellow subjects receive in a parish workhouse. In that place, it is of the utmost importance, not merely to the poor persons who are driven thither by the tempest of fortune, but to the very well being of the country itself, that there should be a decisive boundary—a line of separation—drawn between the *industrious* and *honest* poor, who are suffering under a calamity from which neither you nor we can presume to be exempt, and those *vicious* and *abandoned* characters, which are the pests of society, and the objects of punishment.

In administering relief, we enquire into the in- The honest and dustry and character of the person industrious to be who applies. We have found no relieved kindly and liberally. small benefit in adhering strictly to this rule: and we confidently recommend to you, as an encouragement to the energy and good habits

of the poor, not to give to the idle and the vicious the same encouragement, as is due to the honest and industrious labourer, suffering under sickness or misfortune. If it appears, that the person, who applies, has exerted himself *honourably* and *diligently* in his situation, it is your *duty*, Sir, and it is the *interest* of your parish, that he be relieved *kindly* and *liberally*.

There is an Act of Parliament, which enables you, *if you are so disposed*, to farm As to farming your workhouse — It is possible, that the poor. a *farmed* workhouse, confided to a deserving person, *like absolute power in the best and most virtuous hands*, may be the instrument of good; but there is no instance whatever, in which the *duty* and *interest* of the person *intrusted* are so completely in opposition to each other, as in that of the farmer of a parish workhouse. For, while his duty should direct him to improve the state of the workhouse, it is his interest to keep it in such a condition, as to deter any competitor from offering for it, at the end of the year. The necessary consequence of this is the increase of parochial expenses: and we find, from the different returns throughout the kingdom, that, where workhouses have been farmed, though there was some saving at first, yet in a few years the expenses have thereby been greatly increased, and the poor's-rate accumulated to an alarming amount. Where, indeed, a principal land owner, or land occupier, of a parish can be induced to contract for the parish workhouse, *he has an interest in the permanent improvement of its*

*condition*, and in the diminution of the distresses of the poor ; but where a *vagrant speculating contractor* visits your parish, with a view of making his *incidental* profit by farming your workhouse, we trust you will consider the Christian principle of **DOING AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY** : and that you will not confide the poor, whose **GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR** it is your duty to be, to one, into whose hands you would not trust an acre of your land, or any portion of your own property.

With regard to your workhouse, we have another  
 As to parish observation to make, and that re-  
 children. spect your parish children.—As  
 you regard your own interest and their welfare, we entreat you to educate them *out* of the workhouse. You can do it with as little, and even less expence to the parish ; with much less annoyance to the old people in the workhouse, who are too often the sport of those little, unthinking, and uneducated creatures ; and with much more benefit to the children, who get earlier and more advantageous situations in service, and succeed better in life, proceeding from a parochial school or cottage, than from a workhouse.

With regard to the removal of labourers belong-  
 As to removing ing to other parishes, consider  
 labourers who thoroughly what you may lose, and  
 become charge- what the individual may suffer,  
 able. by the removal, before you apply to us on  
 the subject. Where you have had, for a long time, the benefit of their labour, and where all they want is a little *temporary* relief, reflect whether, after so

many years spent in your service; this is the *moment* and the *cause*, for removing them from the scene of their daily labour to a distant parish. There are cases, in which removals from one parish to another are proper and justifiable ; but, in every instance, before you apply for an order of removal, consider whether it is *prudent* ; and, if prudent, whether it is *just*.

Within four days after the appointment of your successors, you are to produce your Of their quitting accounts before two of the neigh- their office. bouring justices for examination ; and within fourteen days after such appointment, you are to deliver your books, materials for work, and balance of cash, to the persons appointed to succeed you.— If you shall have executed your office duly and conscientiously, you will then quit it, with the blessings of the poor, the esteem and respect of the other classes of society, and with the approbation of your own conscience.

23d April, 1798.

CHAIRMAN.



## No. V.

*Account of the Society, its object, subject of inquiry, regulations, &c.*

THE formation of a society for encouraging the industry, and promoting the welfare of the poor, had been, in the summer of 1796, the subject of some conversation between the Bishop of Durham, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir Thomas Bernard, and a gentleman\* whose premature death has been since generally lamented. In the beginning of the ensuing winter, the following circular letter was prepared, and addressed to a few friends, who, it was conceived, would interest themselves in the measure.

Sir, 17th December, 1796.

The purport of this letter is to propose the formation of a “society for bettering the condition, “and increasing the comforts of the poor;” an establishment, which, we trust, may be the means of adding much to the general mass of national happiness.—In other liberal pursuits, the joint labours of intelligent and active men have never failed to

\* The Hon. Edward James Eliot;—a man, whose singular modesty had the effect of concealing from all, but those who were intimately acquainted with him, the superiority of his understanding and the rare qualities of his mind;—in whom a spirit of warm and active benevolence, heightened and regulated by the most elevated principles of action, received a peculiar grace from a disposition naturally the most generous, amiable, and engaging.

produce considerable effects. Models, inventions, and experiments have been improved, and applied to purposes of great importance. The same degree of success may reasonably be expected from a society, formed for the improvement of the most beneficial of all sciences—the promotion of the welfare of our fellow-creatures.

Its object would be—every thing that concerns the happiness of the poor—every thing by which their comforts can be increased. To remove the difficulties attending parochial relief, and the discouragement of industry and economy, by the present mode of distributing it ; to correct the abuses of work-houses ; and to assist the poor in placing out their children in the world :—in this, and in the improvement of their habitations and gardens : in assistance and information as to the use of fuel, so as to give them more benefit from it ; and in adding to, and meliorating their means of subsistence, by public kitchens, and by other means—much may be done by the union of liberal and benevolent minds—much by the circulating of information, and by personal assistance and influence.

It must afford a strong additional inducement to efforts of this nature to consider, that, in proportion as we can multiply domestic comforts, in the same degree we may hope to promote the cause of morality and virtue. For a very gratifying illustration of this, as well as for the most important improvements in fuel, food, and in the mode of assisting

the poor, the world is indebted to the philanthropy and abilities of Count Rumford.

It is not, however, merely the increase of the comforts and morals of the poor, great as that benefit would be, that may be effected by the proposed establishment: its improvements and experiments will be more or less applicable to farms, manufactories, private families, and to every situation of life. But, supposing it otherwise, were its object confined to the poor only; yet, to add to the plenty of a nation, by economizing its means, and to strengthen, by increase of happiness, the attachment which every true Englishman feels to his country and its invaluable constitution, must be deemed, at any time, objects of no trifling consideration.

If you should so far concur with us, as to give a general approbation of the plan, we shall hope to be honoured by your attendance at Mr. Wilberforce's, Old Palace-Yard, on Wednesday the 21st instant, at a quarter before two o'clock; in order to consider of the formation of the society, and of the outline of the necessary regulations.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient humble servants,

Tho. Bernard.

W. Wilberforce.

Ed. J. Eliot.

A meeting was accordingly held on the 21st of December, 1796; when the gentlemen present came to a resolution to form themselves into a

society for bettering the condition and increasing the comforts of the poor, and appointed a select committee to prepare a draft of regulations for the consideration of the society.

HIS MAJESTY, BEING INFORMED OF THE PLAN AND OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY, WAS GRACIOUSLY PLEASED TO DECLARE HIMSELF THE PATRON OF IT.

At a subsequent meeting the society came to the following resolution.

RESOLVED, That the general object of the society be to collect information respecting the circumstances and situation of the poor, and the most effectual means of meliorating their condition ; in order that any comforts and advantages which the poor do now actually enjoy in any part of England, may eventually be extended to every part of it, with as much improvement and additional benefit as may be to the poor ; and with a tendency gradually to diminish parochial expenses. For the attainment of these ends, it appears to the society, that the circulation of *useful* and *practical* information, derived from experience, and stated *briefly* and *plainly*, so as to be generally read and understood, may be of very great national and individual benefit : and may induce and enable all well disposed persons, to unite in the promotion of an object so important to the happiness and welfare of the community at large, and particularly of that valuable branch of it, the labouring poor.

The following are selected as the subjects of

information, upon which the society is desirous of obtaining and circulating information :

**PARISH RELIEF**—how it may be best directed for the benefit of the poor.

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES**—their good effects, and how they may be best encouraged.

**PARISH WORKHOUSES**—the amendment of them.

**COTTAGES**—the increasing the comfort and neatness of them.

**COTTAGE GARDENS**, and the means of enabling the cottager to keep a cow, or of supplying him with milk.

**PARISH MILLS FOR CORN** ; and parish ovens.

**VILLAGE SHOPS**, for better supplying the poor with the necessaries of life.

**VILLAGE KITCHENS**, and soup shops.

**COTTAGE FIRE-PLACES** and chimneys—the improvement of them.

**FUEL**—how the poor may be better supplied with it.

**APPRENTICES** to manufacturers, and all parish apprentices.

**COUNTY JAILS**—the means and effects of reforming them.

**BEGGARS**—the least exceptionable modes of assisting them.

**PUBLIC ROOMS** for the resort of the industrious poor in cold weather.

On the 24th of February, 1797, the society came to a resolution “ that, in consideration of the



“ extraordinary services of **COUNT RUMFORD** for  
“ the benefit of the poor, and as a testimony of the  
“ respect and esteem with which this society re-  
“ gards his services in promotion of the general  
“ object of the institution, he be elected and de-  
“ clared a member of the society, and one of the  
“ general committee, for life.”

#### REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SOCIETY.

1st, that the business of the society be conducted by the committee.—2d, That a president and four vice-presidents be elected annually, on the first Friday in February, out of the committee.—3d, That every person proposed for election as a member of the committee, be nominated one month at least previous to election, and the proposal be entered in the minute book ; and when the names of seven members of the committee shall be subscribed to the recommendation, the committee shall proceed to election by ballot, when two black balls shall exclude ; and the person proposing him shall, in case of his election, pay down his donation of 50 guineas, or his annual subscription of 5 guineas.—4th, That the attendance of three members, at the least, be necessary to form a committee ; but that no election do take place, in any meeting composed of less than five members — 5th, That all questions be decided by ballot, if called for.—6th, That sub-committees may be appointed by the committee (consisting of two or more of its members) for particular purposes, and with such powers, as the committee may think fit to delegate to them.—7th,

That no future regulations have effect, until approved by a subsequent meeting of the committee : and that no orders of any sub-committee (unless under a special authority) be binding, unless confirmed by the committee.—8th, That the ordinary meetings of the committee be holden at one o'clock precisely, on the first Friday in each month (Good-Friday excepted), or at such day and hour as the committee shall adjourn to.—9th, That if there should be occasion to summon a special committee on any particular business, the secretary may, on a requisition in writing of five members, summon the same, giving three day's notice ; but that no business shall be transacted in such committee, except what shall have been notified in the summons.—10th, That subscriptions be received by Mess. Morland, Ransom, and Co. Pall-Mall, bankers to the society ; or by Mess. Smith, Payne and Smith, George-street, Mansion-house, and Messrs. Hoare, Fleet-street, who will pay over the same to Mess. Morland, Ransom, and Co. and take their receipt for the same ; and all the subscribers of ten guineas in one donation, or of one guinea annually, will be entitled to two copies of each publication, and so in proportion upon any larger subscription.—11th, That the subscriptions received by Mess. Morland, Ransom, and Co. be placed to the account of the society, specifying the subscription of each individual ; and that drafts, on account of the society, be made by order of the committee, and be entered in the minutes of the day : and be signed by the president and one of the vice-presidents, or by two of

the vice-presidents, and counter-signed by the secretary.—12th, That societies, formed in the country for purposes similar to the objects of this society, be entitled to two copies of each publication, for every guinea subscribed by them, in like manner as an individual subscriber.—13th, That donations to the society be either occasional, or annual, and the continuation of annual donations merely optional; but that no member continue so any longer, than while his or her donation (if annual) shall be paid regularly on the first day of January in each year, or within six months after.—14th, That every annual donation be for the whole, or the remaining part, of the year in which it is paid, computing to the 31st day December; and do entitle the donor to copies of all publications of that year.—15th, That any two or more donations made within the year, by any one person, may be deemed a single donation, if of sufficient amount, for the purpose of entitling the contributor to be a member for life.—16th, That communications, read at any meeting, shall be only for consideration; and may be altered or corrected, at any time, before they are ordered to be printed in the report.—17th, That no publication of any paper be made except by the order of the committee, or of the committee of publication.—18th, That all communications published by the society in their reports, shall consist of, first, a concise and correct statement of the fact which is the subject of the communication; and, secondly, practical observations and deductions arising out of that fact, and applicable, either to the particular

object, or to the poor generally : and, that individuals, and societies in the country, disposed to favour this society with any communications, be requested particularly to attend to this resolution.—19th, That though extracts from letters, or from other valuable papers communicated to the committee, are, strictly, not admissible into the reports, yet they may, at the discretion of the committee, be inserted in an appendix, which is intended to be added to each volume of the publications of the society.—20th, That a general meeting of the subscribers be holden in the month of February in every year, to receive a report on the finances of the society, and on the transactions of the preceding year, and to consider the same.

N. B. Contributors are requested to make their donations payable by their respective bankers, giving in to the society such bankers' names : and leaving with such bankers their orders for their discontinuance, if they should think fit to discontinue them.

## No. VI.

The General Committee.

Patron, THE KING.

*President.*

THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

*Vice Presidents.*

LORD DYNEVOR.

SIR THOMAS BERNARD, BART.

THE REV. DR. GLASSE.

JOHN HINCKLEY, ESQ.

*The other Members of the General Committee.*

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I. H. Brown, Esq. M. P.

The Marquis of Buckingham.

The Marquis of Bute.

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The Earl Spencer.  
James Stephen, Esq. M. P.

The Right Hon. John Sullivan.

Lórd Teignmouth.

The Right Hon. N. Vansittart, M. P.

George Vansittart, Esq. M. P.

William Vaughan, Esq.

The Right Hon. J. C. Villiers, M.P.

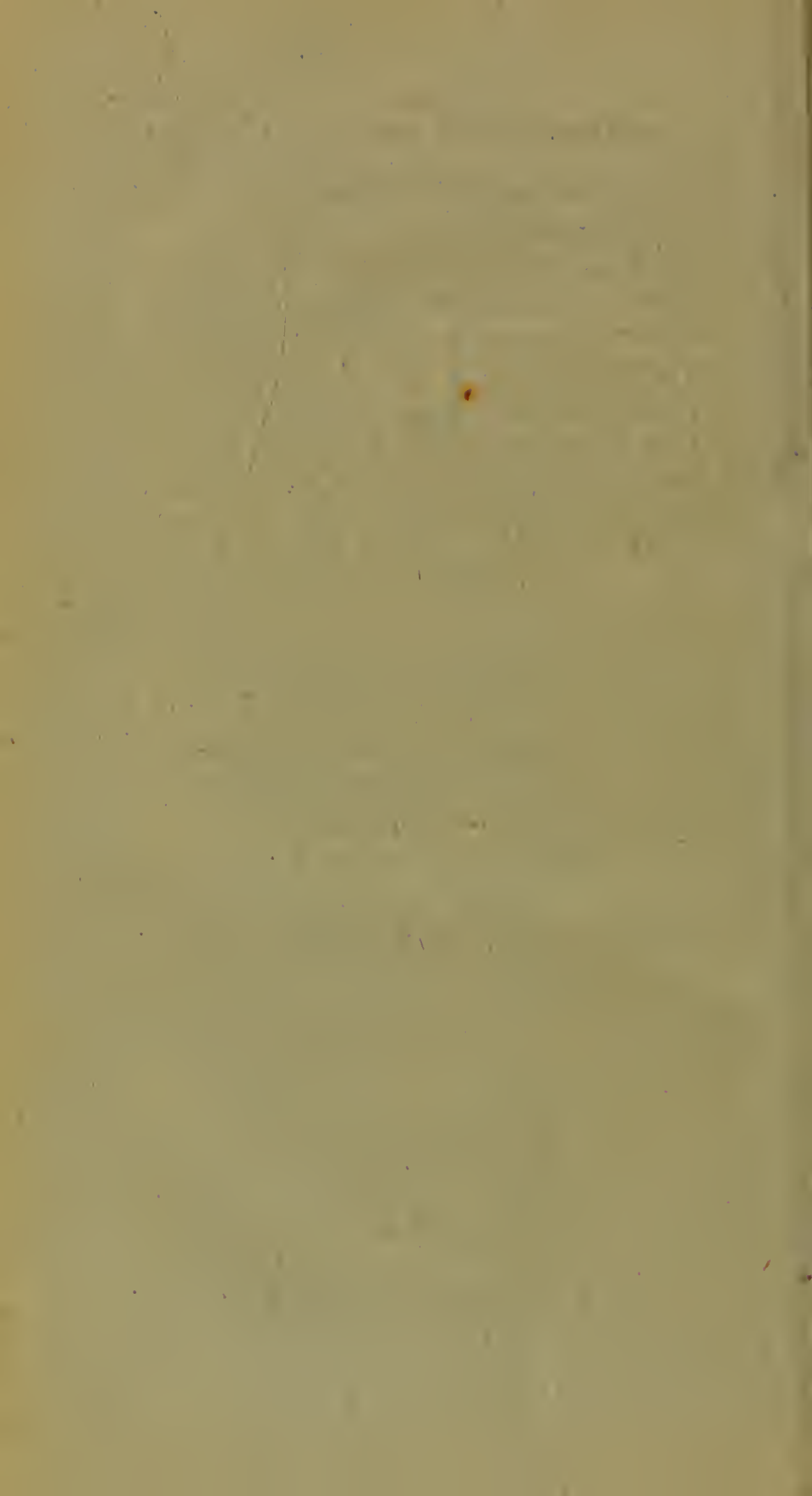
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William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P.

The Earl of Winchilsea.

Sir W. W. Wynne, Bart, M. P.



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